



Modernising Education Programme

Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area

Formal Consultation Document

**Proposal for a new Area School to replace
Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn**

February 2015

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2013 Denbighshire County Council completed an Informal Consultation with eleven primary schools in the Ruthin Area.
- 1.2 As a consequence of the informal consultation exercise Denbighshire County Council wish formally to consult with all interested parties on a proposal which they consider would strengthen future provision.
- 1.3 The proposal that:

Denbighshire County Council would close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the 31st August 2016; and the Church in Wales will establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1st September 2016.

2. Summary of proposal

First Phase

- 2.1 This formal consultation relates to a proposal to create the New Area School to serve both Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Pentrecelyn Communities. Throughout this document, this proposal is called the **Current Proposal**.
- 2.2 If the Current Proposal is agreed and implemented the first phase would see the existing Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn close on 31st August 2016. The new Church in Wales Area School would open on 1st September 2016.
- 2.3 In accordance with the School Organisation Code, the Church in Wales have been consulted on the draft proposal and are in general support of the proposal. It is proposed that the new area school will be a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body. See Appendix 1 for details of the categorisation categories and what they mean.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff. Throughout this document the creation of the Dual-Site Area School is called the **First Phase**.

Second Phase

- 2.5 The next phase would see the Area School consolidated on a new site in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area, subject to land availability and suitability. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.
- 2.6 Throughout this document the movement onto a new site is called the **Second Phase**.

3. Consultation Process

- 3.1 This formal consultation process relates to the Current Proposal and both the First and Second Phase. This formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have an opportunity to contribute to this important subject.
- 3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of potential consultees including:
- a. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - b. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
 - i) Ysgol Llanfair DC;
 - ii) Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
 - iii) Ysgol Pant Pastynog;
 - iv) Ysgol Pen Barras;
 - v) Ysgol Rhewl;
 - vi) Ysgol Carreg Emlyn;
 - vii) Rhos Street School;
 - viii) Ysgol Borthryn;
 - viiii) Ysgol Dyffryn Ial;
 - x) Ysgol Bro Elwen;
 - xi) Ysgol Llanbedr
 - c. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
 - d. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
 - e. Independent nursery providers in the Ruthin area;
 - f. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
 - g. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
 - h. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
 - i. Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council;
 - j. Llanelidan Community Council;
 - k. Efenectyd Community Council;

- l. Ruthin Town Council;
 - m. The Welsh Government;
 - n. Estyn;
 - o. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions.
 - p. Taith
 - q. Gwasanaeth Effeithiolrwydd Ysgolion (GwE)
 - r. North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
 - s. Flintshire County Council
 - t. Wrexham County Borough Council.
- 3.3 This formal consultation document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website www.denbighshire.gov.ukⁱ
- 3.4 The formal consultation period in respect of the Current Proposal will take place between **3rd February 2015 until 16th March 2015**.
- 3.5 A series of formal consultation events will take place during this period. These will be arranged in the format of a 'parents evening' where attendees will be able to speak with officers on a one to one basis. Details of the meetings are included in the letter which is circulated.
- 3.6 Events will also be held with pupils at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 3.7 A supplementary versionⁱⁱ of this formal consultation document has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand better and engage with the formal consultation.
- 3.8 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than **16th March 2015**.
- 3.9 At the end of the formal consultation period all views received will be collated and considered before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and issue a statutory notice.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this formal consultation (including a recommendation from Council officers) in May/June.

Key Points:

- Formal Consultation starts on the 3rd February 2015 and finishes on the 16th March 2015.
- We are consulting with all stakeholders including children attending the schools.
- We intend to report back to Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet in May/ June.

4. Power to make a decision

- 4.1 Denbighshire County Council is permitted to publish proposals to establish a new area school according to the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013ⁱⁱⁱ. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of the two existing schools may be carried out by the Council following the correct statutory procedure.

5. Background to the proposal

- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework^{iv} in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 5.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 5.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.
- 5.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of primary education in the Ruthin Review. The informal consultation document highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:
- a. Sustainability of Schools and High Quality Provision
 - b. Surplus Places
 - c. Condition and Suitability of school buildings (incl. use of mobile accommodation)
 - d. Recruitment of Head Teachers
 - e. Demand for Welsh Medium Education
- 5.5 The informal consultation ended on 22nd March 2013 and Denbighshire County Council has carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 63 letters and emails were received from stakeholders together with 195 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the council and have been published on its website as part of the decision making process.

- 5.6 Cabinet in June 2013 agreed a range of recommendations for the Ruthin area. This included the recommendation to the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Pentrecelyn and Ysgol Llanfair DC that they form a federation to be in place no later than 1st September 2014. Between September 2013 and April 2014 discussions commenced with both Governing Bodies to explore the scope for joint working. In May 2014 the Welsh Government published new regulations which effectively prevented the two schools from federation due to one school being a Community School and the other a Voluntary Controlled School.
- 5.7 Both Governing Bodies have continued dialogue with Denbighshire regarding options for joint working to ensure sustainable provision in the Llanfair / Pentrecelyn area. This has included examining options for working together as an area school and moving towards a single site. During these meetings an overall consensus towards the area school model has been supported alongside the new school being designated as a Voluntary Controlled School recognised by the Church in Wales. Both Governing Bodies have expressed support for retaining their existing language designation; namely Governors of Ysgol Pentrecelyn would support the new school being a Category 1 school and Governors of Ysgol Llanfair would support the new school being a Category 2 school.
- 5.8 In developing this proposal the Council has been mindful of the relative strengths of both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn against the long term needs for the Ruthin area. However the accommodation at both schools does not meet modern requirements and could hinder future delivery of the curriculum. Based on current provision maintaining the status quo could provide greater risks than any proposals for change. For the long term the authority believes that partnership working between both schools will provide greater stability. This proposal will formalise this option of joint working and provide the foundation for moving towards a modern purpose built accommodation.
- 5.9 This proposal is part of a reorganisation of primary schools in Ruthin, this proposal is moving forward at the same time as:
- i. A new purpose built shared campus in the town of Ruthin to enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the new development on Glasdir.
 - ii. A new area school building for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn who are currently on 2 sites in Clocaenog and Cyffylliog.

Key Points:

- Modernising Education is a Denbighshire County Council priority.
- The report of the informal consultation is published on our website.

- 6.4 As of September 2014 Ysgol Llanfair DC had 92 full time pupils, and there are currently 13 part time pupils in nursery. The numbers of pupils in each year group are as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
15	13	11	13	12	13	15

- 6.5 The full time pupil numbers for the last 5 years are illustrated below, these are taken from the January PLASC figures.
PLASC- Pupil Level Annual School Census is collected every January by the Welsh Government and looks at the number of pupils on roll on a specified day in January.

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
94	96	93	90	84

- 6.6 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls, based on January 2014 data, suggests that a steady increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers –January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
82	80	83	87	87

- 6.7 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 113 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 19% of the total capacity. The school is operating at below capacity but the school does have two temporary classrooms which provide 54 places. The two temporary classrooms have been in place for over 3 years and therefore must be included in the overall capacity assessment for the school. As a result the admission number for the school has been increased to 15.
- 6.8 The school's last Estyn Inspection was in June 2010^v and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

Current performance

The school is good and a very happy establishment because:

- The school's distinct feature is the sense of a family community and closeness to learners;
- There is an element of excellence in the learning experiences offered to learners and this has a positive impact on their achievement;
- They make progress, achieve well and become confidently bilingually.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Maintain the good standards whilst aiming for excellence;
- Raise ICT standards in Key stage 2;
- Develop learners' self-assessment strategies in order that they become more independent learners;
- Ensure consistency in comments on learners work, giving them clear guidance on what they need to do to improve their work;
- Complete and align work plans for the new curriculum in Key stage 1 and 2;
- Strengthen the monitoring system to focus more specifically on the achievement of learners.

Key Question	Inspection Grade
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 1
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	Grade 2
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2

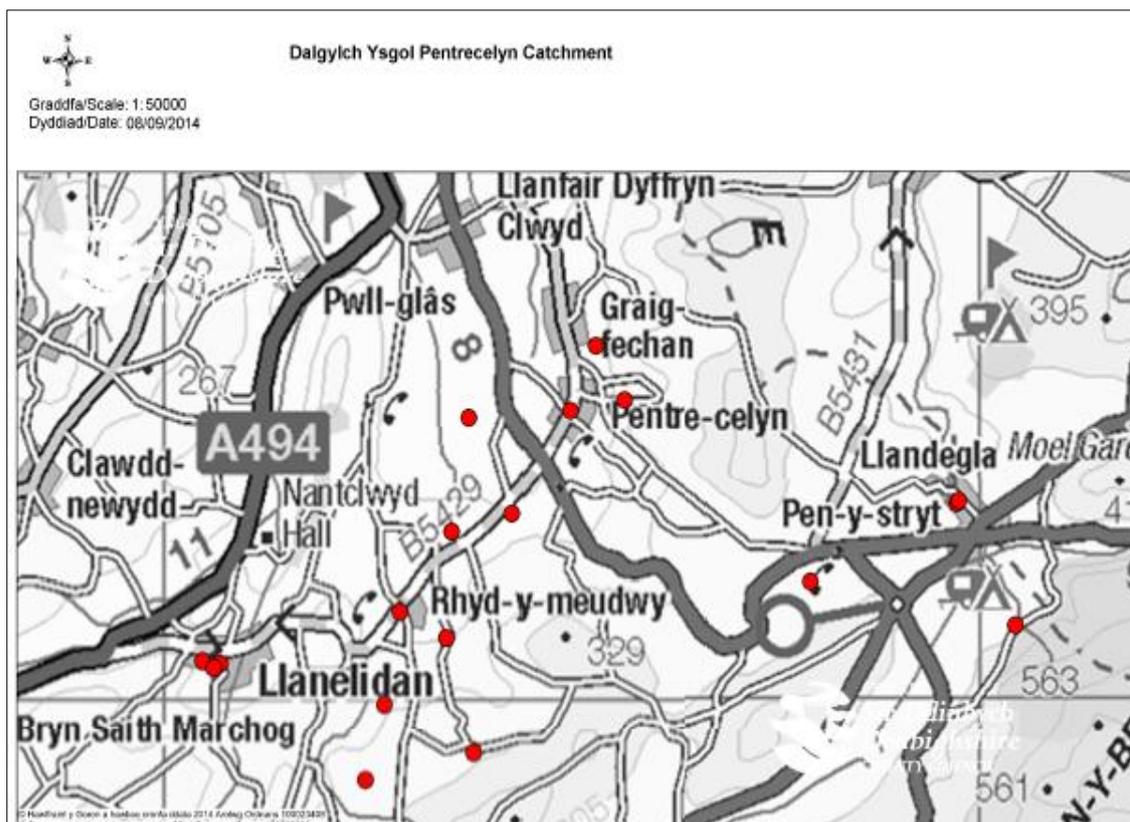
Key:

- Grade 1** Good with outstanding features
Grade 2 Good features and no important shortcomings
Grade 3 Good features outweigh shortcomings
Grade 4 Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
Grade 5 Many important shortcomings

Ysgol Pentrecelyn

6.9 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is located on the outskirts of the village of Pentrecelyn and serves an age range of 4-11. The school is currently identified as a Category 1 – Welsh medium primary school where all pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. The school predominately serves children from Graigfechan, Pentrecelyn, Llanelidan and the surrounding areas. This

is illustrated in the diagram below which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



6.10 As of September 2014 Ysgol Pentrecelyn had 35 full time pupils and there are currently 12 part time pupils in nursery. Pupils in each year group are as follows:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
2	8	7	6	3	6	3

6.11 The pupil numbers have fluctuated over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
23	20	27	31	39

6.12 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that an increase in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
37	40	40	42	41

6.13 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 56 pupils. As of September 2014 the school had 21 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 37% of the total capacity.

6.14 A new temporary headteacher has been appointed since 1st September 2014. The previous acting headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she has returned to her original substantive post at the end of the 2014 summer term. Headteacher recruitment is both a national and local issue with smaller schools in particular finding it difficult to recruit permanent headteachers. In general the lack of a permanent headteacher can impact on leadership and management of a school and may represent a long term risk to the delivery of education and to standards within a school. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body have been keen to seek a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing with regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority. The Local Authority have advised the Governing Body against advertising for a permanent head at this time.

6.15 The schools last Estyn inspection was in November 2014^{vi} and the inspection report, in summary, commented as follows:

Current performance

The school’s current performance is adequate because:

- many pupils make appropriate progress during their time at the school; pupils nearly all co-operate well in small groups or in pairs, and develop as effective independent learners.
- nearly all pupils’ oral skills in Welsh develop very robustly;
- almost all pupils take pride in their Welshness and take an enthusiastic part in cultural and community activities; and
- schemes of work ensure suitable activities for the majority of pupils.

Recommendations

In order to improve, the school needs to:

- Raise standards of extended writing in Welsh and English;
- Raise standards of numeracy across the curriculum in Key stage 2;
- Plan learning experiences that enable more able pupils to achieve according to their ability consistently;
- Ensure that the standard of teaching across the school is consistently good.

Key Question	Inspection Grade
1. How good are outcomes?	Adequate
2. How good is provision?	Adequate
3. How good are leadership and management?	Good

Key:

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

7. Educational attainment

7.1 Educational standards at both schools over the past five years are shown below.

	% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Llanfair DC	88.9%	91.7%	100.0%	94.1%	93.3%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	66.7%	*	*	*	80.0%
Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86.0%	86.6%
Wales – Average	78.2%	80.0%	88.6%	84.3%	86.1%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

7.2 Pupils in Ysgol Pentrecelyn are educated in two classrooms of mixed ages. The teaching and learning is primarily through the medium of Welsh, with the aim of every pupil being fluent in Welsh and English by the end of KS2. In the Foundation Phase increasing numbers of pupils come from a naturally Welsh background and there is a Welsh ethos in the delivery of activities and the curriculum. The foundation phase has increased in numbers and has a wide range of age and ability.

7.3 In Ysgol Pentrecelyn the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 83.3%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Welsh Language development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 50% of pupils gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 83.3%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However the number that gained the higher outcomes was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 67% achieved the higher outcomes, again higher than Welsh, LA and Family average.

7.4 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Pentrecelyn the Core Subject Indicator was 80%. This was lower than Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 80%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. However 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average.

7.5 In Ysgol Llanfair DC the 2014 **Foundation Phase** indicator was 92.3%. This was higher than Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected

outcome in Welsh Language development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 30% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in English Language development was 66.7%. This was lower than the Welsh, LA and family average. No pupils gained the higher outcomes. The percentage achieving the expected outcome in Mathematical Development was 100%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 38.5% gained the higher outcomes, this was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 100% of learners achieved the expected outcome in Personal and social development. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46% achieved the higher outcomes, higher than Local Authority average.

7.6 In 2014 **Key Stage 2** results for Ysgol Llanfair DC the Core Subject Indicator was 93.3%. This was above the Welsh, LA and Family average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in English Language was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 46.7% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, family and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Welsh Language was 90.9%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Maths was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh, LA and family average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh and LA average. The percentage achieving the expected levels in Science was 93.3%. This was higher than the Welsh and LA average. 40% of pupils gained the higher levels, this was higher than the Welsh, Family and LA average.

8. Alternative provision

8.1 Should the Current Proposal proceed, Denbighshire County Council would wish to see all pupils transfer to the New Area School to ensure that they continue to receive their education in a rural area and to a consistently high standard.

8.2 Denbighshire County Council believe that the majority of pupils would transfer to the new area school. We appreciate that we may lose some pupils who currently attend Ysgol Pentrecelyn and whose parents wish to send their children to a Category 1- Welsh medium school. With this in mind the nearest alternative schools below are both Category 1 schools.

School Name	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places	Number of pupils on Roll (Sept 2014)
Ysgol Pen Barras (Ruthin)	Welsh / Community	252	29	36	223
Ysgol Bro Elwern (Gwyddelwern)	Welsh/ Community	48	13	6	35

8.3 Further information is provided in Appendix 2, which compares the 2 schools listed above with Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn with regard to:

1. Education attainment
2. Free School Meals (FSM)
3. Additional Learning Needs Data
4. Current full time pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC)
5. Current part time nursery pupil numbers (September 2014 PLASC)
6. Pupil numbers for the last 5 years for each school
7. Projected pupil numbers for the next 5 years
8. Estyn reports summary for each school

8.4 The information contained in Appendix 2 suggests that the alternative provision will at least maintain the standard of education provision for pupils wishing to move. Both schools have surplus places and will be able to continue to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, should a number of parents choose to send their children to an alternative provision as a consequence of the proposal.

8.5 The table below shows the overall condition category for each school taken from the 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category for the above schools:

School	Overall Condition
Ysgol Pen Barras	C
Ysgol Bro Elwern	C
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	B
Ysgol Llanfair DC	B

Key:

- A- Good (No deterioration)
- B- Satisfactory (Minor deterioration)
- C- Poor (Major deterioration)
- D- Bad (Life expired)

Ysgol Pen Barras is in Ruthin and the school site is split between the English medium school Rhos Street, which occupies the original building and Penbarras which occupies the extension and mobiles. The 2 schools share the canteen and annexe to Llanrhydd Street. There are currently 5 mobiles at Ysgol Pen Barras mainly located between the upper playground and the playing field. It is important to note that there are plans for a new purpose built shared campus in the town of Ruthin to enable the relocation of Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School to the new development on Glasdir.

Ysgol Bro Elwern is located in Gwyddelwern. The school buildings consists of a 19th century/early twentieth century traditional village school and school house, fronting the main road through the village, to which a modern flat roofed extension has been added to the rear. There is no hall space at the school and pupils currently

use community facilities in the village, in partnership with Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch which it is federated with, for the delivery of physical education curriculum.

- 8.6 Other schools on the periphery of the catchment areas of the existing schools are listed below:

School Name	Type of School	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	Nursery Places	Number of pupils on Roll (Sept 2014)
Ysgol Rhewl (Rhewl)	Dual Stream / Community	82	29	11	53
Ysgol Pant Pastynog (Prion)	Welsh / Church in Wales (VC)	54	-8	7	62
Ysgol Carreg Emlyn (Clocaenog & Cyffylliog)	Welsh/ Community	80	20	11	60
Ysgol Borthyn (Ruthin)	English/ Church in Wales (VC)	142	22	20	120
Ysgol Llanbedr (Llanbedr)	English/ Church in Wales (VC)	54	32	11	22
Ysgol Dyffryn Ial (Llandegla)	English/ Church in Wales (VC)	60	19	8	41
Rhos Street School (Ruthin)	English/ Community	189	38	23	151

Key point: There is alternative provision for communities within the wider area which may receive pupils as a consequence of this current proposal.

9. Secondary Provision

Both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn currently feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd and the new Area School will continue to feed Ysgol Brynhyfryd. See table in Section 13.2 for more information in regards to pupil progression from both schools into secondary education.

10. Additional Learning needs provision

- 10.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the two existing schools will become one new school but the pupils will continue to be taught on the existing sites. The most significant change for a pupil would be a change in site and teacher. Accordingly, any pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) who currently attend the schools will continue to receive the same education and support but the environment may change. The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and assist pupils with any transfer.

- 10.2 The council appreciates that Phase 2 proposal to move to a New Area School will result in greater change than operating one school on two sites. This will affect all pupils but it is likely to prove even more challenging to pupils with ALN. The council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and to assist such pupils with the transition. Any pupils with additional learning needs currently attending either school 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 transfer to their new learning environment.
- 10.3 Denbighshire County Council will provide appropriate help and support for additional learning needs pupils. Should parents with pupils who are registered ALN have any questions regarding the support that the Council could offer they will have the opportunity to speak to the relevant ALN Education Officers.
- 10.4 The facilities available at a New Area School will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire County Council's ALN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and so learning experience for pupils with ALN specifically regarding dedicated 1-2-1 areas, resources, accessibility and acoustics.

Key Points:

- A new area school would provide an opportunity to improve facilities.

11. The proposal in detail - description and rationale

- 11.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with:
- a. the Council's commitment to 'Modernising Education';
 - b. the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential.
- 11.2 There are a number of issues facing both schools that could impact on their ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

Educational case for change

- 11.3 In considering the proposal careful attention has been given to the likely impact of this proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management. In summary the proposers believe that the proposal would at least maintain provision for the following reasons:
- i. **Outcomes-** standards and wellbeing- The proposal is likely to at least maintain existing outcomes for the new school. It is anticipated that during the amalgamation phase the Temporary Governing Body will review the

curriculum to be adopted for the new school and the local authority would work with the Temporary Governing Body to ensure that the strengths of both schools are developed, alongside external advice to ensure that the framework for improved standards are in place for the new school.

The Current Proposal will offer greater opportunities for the two schools to work together to improve staff expertise that will lead to raising standards.

For example:

- a. Teachers can work together to plan and prepare high quality lessons and standardise assessment and thus reducing the demands on individual teachers;
- b. Peer observation of the best teachers lessons to develop consistently high teaching practice, and
- c. Sharing resources to enable more efficient and innovative ways of working

The proposers would expect that the revised arrangements could lead to a raise in standards through teachers working together to plan and prepare high quality lessons, by undertaking peer observations.

- ii. **Provision-** learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, learning environment- The proposal could allow provision to be maintained as it is anticipated that during the amalgamation phase the majority of pupils will be educated in their current learning environment with existing staff. An Area school will provide additional teaching capacity for smaller groups of pupils who are in need of extra support; including greater capacity for more able and talented pupils. See table below for future projections for the new area school:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January 2014 PLASC				
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
119	120	123	129	128

Currently pupils are taught in classes encompassing up to 4 age groups. A larger area school will provide opportunities for pupils to be taught within a reduced age range.

Small schools are limited in their abilities to respond to fluctuations in pupil numbers by their schools structural and teaching capacity. A larger area school will be able to respond to fluctuations in pupil number that are a feature of rural schools.

- iii. **Leadership and management-** leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management- The proposal could lead to improvements in respect of leadership and management. The amalgamated phase should provide stability in terms of resource management, improve partnership working and provide an opportunity for strengthening

leadership. There will be more opportunities for the teachers to share good practice and develop leadership skills during the amalgamated phase.

Smaller schools, due to financial constraints, find it difficult to implement senior leadership structures that meet the requirements of teachers pay and conditions. In Ysgol Pentrecelyn a new temporary Headteacher has been appointed since 1 September 2014. The previous acting Headteacher, was on a secondment and ran the school for three years, she returned to her original substantive post end of summer term 2014. The Current Proposal could see the development of leadership and management structures, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression. The governing body have been keen to seek a permanent appointment whilst discussions have been ongoing with regards to the Ruthin primary school review, this situation has been regularly discussed and reviewed with the Local Authority. The Local Authority have advised the Governing Body against advertising for a permanent head at this time.

Adequacy of existing school buildings and sites

- 11.4 In terms of the 21st Century Schools Survey Condition Category the condition of both schools is B-Satisfactory (Minor deterioration). Whilst the existing facilities at both schools allow for the delivery of the basic curriculum entitlement, the current environment restricts the potential to deliver the innovative curriculum required for 21st century learning.
- 11.5 Ysgol Llanfair DC currently have two mobile classrooms which provide classrooms for years 5 and 6, with year 4 accommodated in a first floor area which is accessed via a narrow staircase which is not ideal. The toilet provision is a major concern at the school as it is below the statutory minimum for current pupil numbers. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m² per annum which is mid range.

There is no separate hall or dining facilities with classrooms in the main building doubling up as dining area and assembly areas. The school use the church hall for events and the church for services- unfortunately these are both located on the opposite side of the A525 resulting in pupils and staff having to cross a busy road to access these facilities.

A major concern for the site is the arrangement for parking and the lack of suitable drop off/ pick up and pedestrian facilities. Currently there is an agreement with the village hall and the local authority that for a small charge per day staff have to park at the church hall- this cost is met by the local authority. There is also limited parking for deliveries.

- 11.6 Ysgol Pentrecelyn is split between the extended original school and the school house. Energy consumption at the site is £11/m² per annum which is mid range.

The school has parking adjacent to the highway for approximately 9 vehicles. There is a reasonably sized field incorporating a football pitch and small soft play area, the field area is not owned by the authority but by Llysfasi College. This can be utilised by the school as long as the school remains open as a school.

The catering facilities are not ideal with the kitchen in need of a refurbishment and there is poor access for deliveries with steps at the access door of the kitchen. Also there are steps down into the dining area from the kitchen which can be problematic.

- 11.7 Both schools have a maintenance backlog- Ysgol Llanfair DC of £53,357.64 and Ysgol Pentrecelyn £47,717.20.

- 11.8 Both sites are in need of significant investment to enable both schools to provide a learning environment fit for purpose to meet the requirements of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Key points:

- Small schools have limited capacity to implement senior leadership structures.
- Both school buildings are not fit for purpose and would require significant investment to improve facilities.

12. What is the proposed option?

- 12.1 This formal consultation relates to the Current Proposal, namely: to close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn to enable the establishment of an Area School serving the communities of Llanfair DC, Pentrecelyn and the surrounding areas on the existing sites.

- 12.2 A second phase, which will follow the completion of the current proposal, would involve construction of a new school building in a location to be determined in the Llanfair DC area.

What would this mean?

- 12.3 If the Current Proposal was approved:
- a. Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn School would both close on 31st August 2016; and
 - b. The Area School would open on 1st September 2016 (initially on the existing sites in Llanfair DC and Pentrecelyn and utilising the existing buildings).

- 12.4 The new school would be voluntary controlled school and categorised as a **Category 2- Dual Stream Primary School** where two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision. Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages. The competency and confidence of pupils in both English and Welsh will be depending upon the ethos and policies of the school and governing body.
- 12.5 It is proposed that the new area school would initially use the existing buildings in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. This will allow for a smoother transition into the new build for both pupils and staff.
- 12.6 The Welsh language impact assessment has considered the potential impact to pupils, parents and the wider community of this proposal and it will be an essential role of the new governing body to ensure that the mitigation measures outlined in the impact assessment are progressed to ensure that a strong Welsh language ethos is maintained as is the case now in both schools.
- 12.7 All children attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the Area School; subject to parental preference.
- 12.8 In terms of the leadership and management of the Area School, as of 1st September 2016 there would be one Governing Body, one Executive Headteacher and one group of staff. The Governing Body would include Parent, Denbighshire County Council, Teacher, Staff and Church in Wales representation together with a number of Community Governors. Prior to the opening of the Area School a Temporary Governing Body would be established and this would take key decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher and the supportive leadership team, the staffing structure for and name of the Area School, uniform, policies etc.
- 12.9 The temporary governing body would be encouraged to allow the existing Breakfast provision to continue at Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- 12.10 The intention of the Council, working in partnership with the Church in Wales, would be to consolidate provision on to a single site- Phase 2. The vision for the New Area School would be a 4 - 11 provision serving 140 pupils 0.6 form entry. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015. The new school accommodation would be based on the existing facilities at both schools, it is not anticipated that

any significant changes would occur to the accommodation prior to the building of the proposed new school.

12.11 The law relating to school reorganisation 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 buildings of Ysgol Pentrecelyn 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. Following the completion of the new school building Denbighshire County Council would need to consider declaring the existing site at Ysgol Pentrecelyn as surplus to requirements in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework. It is anticipated that any proceeds from the disposal of surplus sites would be used to contribute to the overall costs of the new school building. Ysgol Llanfair DC site is partly owned by the Church in Wales. The process of disposing of the Ysgol Llanfair DC site will be considered in partnership with the Church in Wales.

12.12 The table below shows the timescale that we are potentially working to, should the proposal go forward:

Consultation period	3rd February- 16th March 2015
Decision of Cabinet	May 2015
Statutory Notice Period	June 2015- July 2015
Decision of Cabinet	September 2015
Transition to new area school	October 2015- August 2016
The new area school on the two current sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn	September 2016

It is anticipated should investment be approved that pupils move into the new school on one site in September 2017.

Key Points:

- All children currently attending Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn would transfer to the new area school subject to parental preference.
- The new school would be a voluntary controlled Category 2 school (Dual stream)
- The new area school would have a capacity of 169 with 23 nursery places during phase 1.
- A Temporary Governing Body will be established who will appoint the Head teacher.

13. Language Provision

13.1 When discussing language it is important to refer Denbighshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017: ^{vii} where it is stated that,

“Denbighshire County Council is fully committed to the Welsh Government’s aspiration of delivering ‘a sustained increase in both the number and percentage of people able to speak Welsh. The Council recognises the importance of bilingualism in 21st Century Wales and has adopted a long term aspiration that all children and young people in the County will leave full-time education being competent and confident in using both Welsh and English languages.”

13.2 The document also highlights the importance of children continuing their education through the medium of Welsh in the secondary sector. Pupils attending both Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn normally go onto attend the secondary school Ysgol Brynhyfryd in Ruthin. This currently has 3 streams- Welsh, English and the ‘N Stream’ (Bi-lingual) Nearly all pupils who attend Ysgol Pentrecelyn enter the Welsh stream- see the table below:

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	5	0	4	1	6	2	18
English only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secondary School Learning Pathway Number of pupils:							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	4	0	3	0	3	2	12
Transferring to ‘N Stream’	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Transferring to the English Stream	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

The table below shows the results for Ysgol Llanfair DC- the majority of pupils enter the Welsh stream, however there are some pupils that enter the 'N Stream':

Language assessed at the end of KS2	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	Total
Welsh and English	11	11	11	6	4	7	50
English only	4	6	1	6	5	0	21
Secondary School Learning Pathway Number of Pupils:							
Transferring to the Welsh Stream	11	11	10	4	2	6	44
Transferring to 'N Stream'	4	3	1	6	4	1	19
Transferring to the English Stream	0	1	0	0	1	0	2

The figures above show that over the last 6 years 88% of pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn and 67% of pupils from Ysgol Llanfair DC transferred to the Welsh stream.

13.3 Categorisation

The Welsh Government's Defining Schools According to Welsh Medium Provision (Oct 2007) states the categories of schools "according to the amount of Welsh used in teaching and learning and in the day to day conduct of the school." It clearly states that the definitions have no basis in legislation but have been developed to give parents better information and "for local and national government on the extent to which pupils are learning through the medium of Welsh."

The document states the following in regards to Category 1 and Category 2 schools:

"1. Welsh-Medium Primary School

Curriculum - all Pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is the main teaching medium at KS2 with at least 70% of the teaching through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at Key Stage 2 and is taught through the medium of English, and English may occasionally be used for some aspects of some subjects.

Language of the School - Welsh is the language of the day to day business of the school. Welsh is used as the language of communication with the pupils and for the school's administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

Outcomes - The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision and by the end of Key Stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.

2. Dual Stream Primary School

Curriculum - Two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision which is usually delivered as in categories and 5 respectively.

Language of the School - Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

Outcomes - for pupils in the Welsh stream, normal expectations are as for category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for category 5.”

- 13.4 The following table shows the outcomes for Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn in 2014:

	% achieving Level 4 + at Key Stage 2			
	English	Welsh 1 st Language	Maths	Science
Ysgol Llanfair DC	93.3%	90.9%	93.3%	93.3%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	60.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
Denbighshire	89.2%	85.1%	89.5%	90.9%
Wales Average	88.4	88.1%	88.9%	90.3%

In Ysgol Llanfair DC some pupils are assessed in Welsh as a second language, in 2014 a total number of 4 pupils (100%) gained level 6 which is above the expected level of level 4.

- 13.5 Denbighshire County Council believe that Ysgol Llanfair’s current model brings more pupils into Welsh education who may have gone to an English medium school otherwise. However it is important to note that the Welsh stream in Ysgol Llanfair offers a similar provision to pupils who attend a Welsh medium school.

13.6 Fluency of pupils at the schools

The table below shows that similar numbers of pupils in both schools have very comparable skills in speaking Welsh.

	Pupils on roll (taken from PLASC* Jan 2014 return)		
	Fluent in Welsh	Can speak Welsh but not fluent	Cannot speak Welsh
Ysgol Llanfair DC	68 (70.1%)	22 (22.7%)	7 (7.2%)
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	30 (71.4%)	10 (23.8%)	2 (4.8%)

* PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

**Including Full and Part-Time numbers on roll

13.7 Governance

To maintain the ethos and language currently celebrated at both schools we need to work together to develop a supportive environment to ensure that this ethos is maintained through the adoption of relevant policies to safeguard the Welsh language.

- 13.8 Should the proposal be implemented the temporary governing body, appointed from the existing governors from Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn will for example be required to review the staffing structure within the school. The temporary governing body will need to make sure its recruitment procedures ensure the staff at the school, both teachers and support staff, have the required levels of fluency to maintain the current strong Welsh ethos. This should be addressed by ensuring all jobs are classified as Welsh essential during the recruitment process and that the governing body's recruitment policy reflects that all staff members must be able to communicate in Welsh.
- 13.9 Similarly it will be important for Denbighshire County Council as part of its overall monitoring role for the Welsh Education Strategic Plan to ensure that the current strong Welsh medium ethos is retained, and intervenes as appropriate should this be diluted.
- 13.10 Every governing body has to have an Instrument of Government which is a statement of the makeup of the Governing Body. The Instrument of Government has to be agreed with the local authority - the local authority would need to agree to include a statement about the language of the school. Any language category included in an Instrument of Government would need to be recognised by the Welsh Government. A school delivering Welsh medium education is either recognised as a Welsh medium school or a dual-stream school. Any future change to the language category of the school would be required to be the subject of formal consultation and statutory notices. A Governing Body cannot undertake a change in language category by itself.

14. Admission arrangements for the Area School

- 14.1 The Area School would have a unified approach to admission arrangements and would be administered by Denbighshire County Council's School Admissions service. Full support will be provided to parents who wish to apply for their children to be admitted to an alternative school should the proposals be implemented.

15. What are the transport implications of this proposal?

- 15.1 2013/14 costs for 'Home to School Transport' for the 2 schools are as follows:

Ysgol Llanfair DC= £348 per day x 190 days= £66,120

Ysgol Pentrecelyn= £231 per day x 190 days= £43,890

Therefore total costs for both schools is £ 110,010

- 15.2 Pupils will continue to be transported to their designated site for the period that the school stays on two sites, in accordance with the current Home to School Transport Policy.

- 15.3 Currently 30 (86%) of the 35 full time Ysgol Pentrecelyn pupils get free home to school transport. Currently 48 (52%) of the 92 full time Ysgol Llanfair pupils get free home to school transport.

- 15.4 Currently the road in front of Ysgol Pentrecelyn is deemed hazardous in both directions, however this is currently under review. Ysgol Llanfair is surrounded by a number of hazardous routes especially in the Pwllglas direction.

16. What are the staffing implications of this proposal?

- 16.1 Should the Current Proposal be implemented, the Area School would have only one Headteacher. The Temporary Governing Body of the Area School would need to appoint the Headteacher and this could involve national advertisements or it could be an internal appointment.

- 16.2 Denbighshire County Council, with agreement from the Temporary Governing Body, would apply its policies to reassure and clarify the position of staff.

- 16.3 A staffing structure would need to be developed for the Area School taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.

- 16.4 While the Area School operates on two sites the council does not anticipate any major changes to the existing staffing structures other than the Headteacher and other leadership positions. However, final decisions regarding the new staffing

structure would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new Headteacher.

16.5 The council will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the Area School should be “ring-fenced” to the staff within the existing two schools.

16.6 As part of this formal consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching and staff unions.

Key points:

- The Area school would have one Head teacher
- The Temporary Governing Body appoints the Head teacher
- Final decisions on staffing structures would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new head teacher.

17. What are the financial implications of this proposal?

17.1 The cost of provision based upon the 2014/15 budget share is £4,296 per pupil at Ysgol Llanfair DC and £5,364 per pupil at Ysgol Pentrecelyn, compared with the Denbighshire average of £3,931.

17.2 The current reported financial position for the schools is:

Balance c/f	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Ysgol Llanfair DC	£43,878	(£3,288)	(£64,964)
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	£8,759	£1,783	(£1,595)

*This is based on the existing 3 year plan.

Any balances, surplus or deficit , at either school, will transfer to the Local Authority at the point of change.

17.3 The potential gain to the new area school whilst amalgamated on two sites, taking into account funding losses, gains and potential savings would be £22,026. This figure is based on the best available information and assumes current funding level would apply and that no other material changes take place at the school i.e. increase/ decrease in pupil numbers.

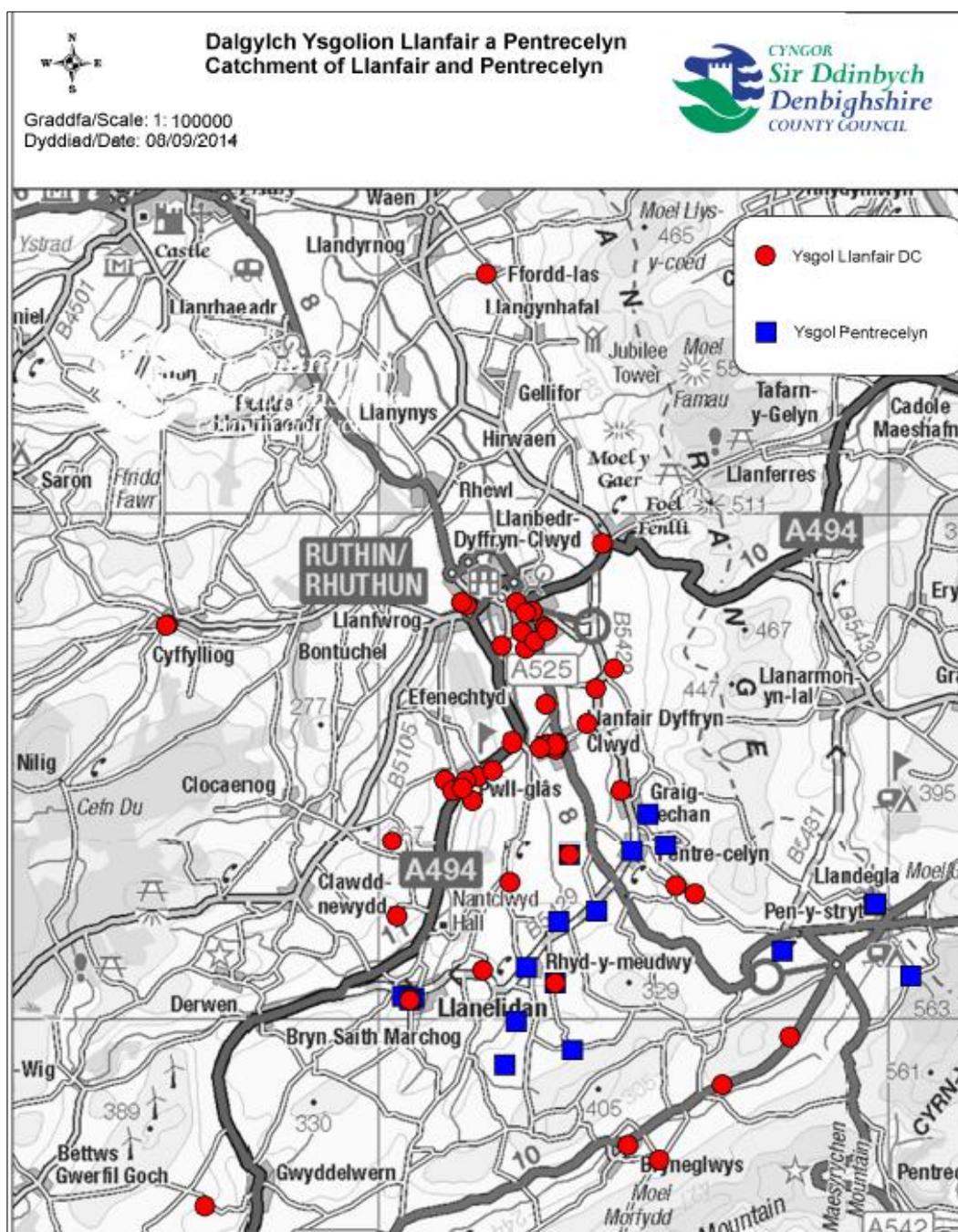
17.4 Once the schools are amalgamated the budget share per pupil will be £4,274.

Key points:

- Both schools receive more than the Denbighshire average of funding per pupil.
- All schools in Denbighshire are funded through a funding formula.
- The Local Authority inherits any balance, surplus or deficit at the point of change.
- It is estimated that one area school on two sites will receive more funding.

18. Site

- 18.1 The final site location for the New Area School, which will emerge from the Second Phase, will be carefully considered by Denbighshire County Council in partnership with the Church in Wales.
- 18.2 In the first instance, the difficulties in expanding both current school sites within the existing boundaries to accommodate all pupils attending both schools have been acknowledged during site analysis.
- 18.3 The priority, in considering a new single location, has been to ensure, where appropriate, it can be accessible to a large percentage of current and future pupils. See combined catchment diagram below:



- 18.4 More detailed feasibility work will be progressed to determine a preferred site which will enable Denbighshire County Council to enter into any negotiations which may be required with any third parties regarding land purchases etc.

Transport

- 18.5 Transport would be provided in the first instance in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school. Both schools have a number of hazardous routes around them, however a number of these have recently been reviewed and one route to Ysgol Pentrecelyn from Llysfasi College direction is no longer considered hazardous therefore free transport on this route will cease after 17th July 2015.
- 18.6 In view of the timescale between the Current Proposal being approved and a new site becoming operational, it is difficult to estimate the likely costs implications in respect of transport budgets in full. During this time (for which the Area School may operate until the Second Phase is approved), there will be a range of variables which will impact on any modelling, including changes in pupil numbers, transport costs etc.

Financial

- 18.7 In view of the range of variables associated with the move to a single site, at this stage it is more difficult to predict what the overall impact would be for the finances of the New Area School. Costs will be modelled taking into account the likely pupil numbers and floor areas based upon current projections.

Key points:

Site

- Neither existing site can accommodate the existing pupils of both schools.

Transport

- All request for pupil transport would be in line with Denbighshire County Council policy.

19. How would any new school buildings work be financed?

- 19.1 The Council as part of their Corporate Plan has identified as a priority investment in school buildings as a consequence of area reviews. Investment in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area has been identified as an initial priority area. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.

19.2 Any savings generated for school organisation proposals such as savings from the removal of temporary accommodation, capital receipts and any revenue savings will be used to support the overall investment in this priority area.

20. What are the disadvantages of the proposal?

20.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the Area School will be located on the existing school sites in Llanfair and Pentrecelyn. This arrangement would be managed to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact negatively on the children's education.

20.2 If the school becomes a category 2 school there maybe a perception that the welsh language and ethos will be diluted. To ensure that this does not happen it will be essential that the governing body has a strong ethos and policies which put the Welsh language at the heart of the school. As part of the development of the proposal a Community and Language Impact Assessment has been undertaken and this has highlighted a number of actions to be undertaken to mitigate against any potential loss of ethos. Any new Governing Body should ensure that progress against these actions is closely monitored. Similarly it will be important for Denbighshire as part of its overall monitoring role for the Welsh Education Strategic Plan to ensure that the current strong welsh medium ethos is retained, and intervenes as appropriate should this be diluted.

20.3 There would also be implications for staff at the current Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn should the proposals be progressed for the development of an Area School. The role of the Headteacher would need to be carefully considered by the Temporary Governing Body. The approach to appointments to the role of Headteacher/Deputy Headteachers would be an issue for determination by the Temporary Governing Body which would need to consider whether the positions should be advertised nationally or appointed internally.

20.4 The new Head teacher and the Temporary Governing Body would be required to consider the staffing structure for the Area School. The Council would work initially with the Temporary Governing Body (and then with the Governing Body) of the Area School during these times and should the need arise would work with the current members of staff at both schools and/or the new area school to seek redeployment opportunities.

Key points:

- Changes will be managed to ensure that disruption will be minimised to ensure that there is no impact on education.
- The Temporary Governing Body will need to decide if they advertised for a Head teacher nationally or appointed internally.
- Some staff may be redeployed or made redundant depending on the staffing structure adopted.

21. Alternative Options

21.1 Denbighshire County Council have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the Current Proposal. In considering these options reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the council's 21st Century Schools Programme which are as follows:

- a. *Learning environments for children and young people aged from 3 to 19 that will enable successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes;*
- b. *Greater economy through better use of resources to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate and public provision; and*
- c. *A sustainable education system with all schools meeting a 21st Century Schools Standard, and reducing recurrent costs and carbon footprint.*

21.2 Denbighshire County Council have also referred to the Critical Success Factors for this project. The main options that have been considered are as follows:

- Option 1.1 Maintain the status quo;
- Option 1.2 Undertake extension works at Ysgol Llanfair DC;
- Option 1.3 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Option 1.4 Close both schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area school on the existing sites.
- Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school in Llanfair.
- Option 1.6 Federate the 2 schools;

21.3 The main advantages and disadvantages of each option are as follows.

Option 1.1 Maintain Status Quo (Do nothing)

Advantages	Disadvantages
This is the 'cheap' option as no additional investment expenditure is required.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
	Would not assist Ysgol Pentrecelyn who currently have an acting Headteacher. Appointing a permanent Head teacher for Ysgol Pentrecelyn may be difficult in the current configuration.
	The two schools could face real issues

	regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
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Option 1.2 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC;

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	The current site is sufficient for development as a 105 capacity school only.
Would enable the schools capacity to be amended to reflect the respective current demand for Ysgol Llanfair DC.	Would not solve the issue of lack of parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities on the existing site.
Would not lead to any significant changes in regard to school organisation proposals with potential alterations required to the capacity of Ysgol Llanfair DC.	Ysgol Pentrecelyn will still face the issues regarding a temporary headteacher.
Would not require amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

Option 1.3- Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC on a new site & close Ysgol Pentrecelyn:

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing additional fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Community of Pentrecelyn could be excluded from the future operation of the school and therefore the new school would not reflect the wider community.
The capacity of the school would be increased to take into account the current demand for places at the school and any pupils from Ysgol Pentrecelyn that may attend the school.	
Would not require major amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	

Option 1.4 Close both schools and establish a permanent new Dual-site Area school on the existing sites.

Advantages	Disadvantages
No additional Capital Investment expenditure is required.	Would not solve the issue of lack of parking/ drop off/ pick up facilities at Ysgol Llanfair DC.
A permanent Head Teacher would be appointed for the new area school.	Would not address the fact that Ysgol Llanfair currently have 2 mobile classrooms.
Resources and space would be organised across both sites accordingly.	The two sites could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
Pupils could be taught in smaller age groups than the current provision.	

Option 1.5 Close both Schools and initially establish a dual site area school prior to building a new area school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	Potential risk that parents choose an alternative provision to the new School especially if they live at the periphery of the new catchment area.
Bringing together the delivery of both schools to a single campus could yield significant economies of scale.	Risk of funding not being available for the new build.
A new area school will have sufficient capacity to absorb fluctuations in pupil numbers.	
The long term sustainability of the school would be far more secure in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.	

Option 1.6 Federate both schools- The new regulations published in May 2014 state that “Neither LAs nor governing bodies have powers to federate voluntary (VA and VC) or foundation schools with community schools, community special schools and maintained nurseries”. With this in mind federation is therefore no longer a viable option. This has therefore been discounted.

21.4 The analysis of these options suggest that to meet the investment objectives and critical success factors that the option of closing both schools and establishing a dual site area school should be considered as the preferred option.

Analysis of Options against Investment Objectives and Critical Success Factors

	Option 1.1 Do nothing	Option 1.2 Extend Ysgol Llanfair DC	Option 1.3 New school in Llanfair, close Ysgol Pentrecelyn	Option 1.4 Existing Dual- Site Area School	Option 1.5 New One Site Area School
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	✓	✓	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	?	?	x	?
2 Greater Economy – Capital	?	?	?	?	?
3 Sustainable Education system	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Critical success factors					
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	?	?	?	?	?
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	✓	✓	x	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF4 Improved ability to appoint and retain permanent Head Teachers.	x	x	✓	✓	✓
CSF 5 Support the increase in demand for Welsh Medium Education	x	✓	✓	?	✓
Summary	Discounted	Discounted	Possible	Possible	Preferred

Key Points:

- Maintaining the status quo does not address any issues in either school.
- Undertaking extension works at Ysgol Llanfair in isolation, doesn't address the headteacher issue at Ysgol Pentrecelyn.
- Closing both Schools and establishing an area school permanently on the existing sites does not improve the condition of buildings or facilities in the schools.
- Closing both Schools, establish and build a new Area School meets the objectives set out in the review regarding surplus places, suitability of buildings and sustainability of provision.

22. Explanation of the statutory process

22.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.

22.2 The requirements are as follows:

- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
- b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
- c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
 - i) on the council's website;
 - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
 - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
- d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
- e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);
- f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).

22.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published (as described in **paragraph 21.2(c)** above) then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

Key Point: For the current proposal to be implemented a Statutory Notices would be published for 28 days. This would allow anyone wishing to object to do so.

A response provided during the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection.

23. Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact

23.1 As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the closure of two schools a Equality, Welsh Language and Community impact assessments has been carried out and this is available on our website.

23.2 Overall, the Current Proposal will be neutral in terms of its impact on the Welsh language. Even though the Current Proposal would reduce the amount of Category 1 places in the area, we believe that increasing the bilingual offer could ensure more pupils are educated in Welsh as well as English.

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.

It will be important to ensure that the new schools governance has a strong Welsh ethos and that the staff can teach in Welsh. Any new Governing Body should ensure that progress against these actions is closely monitored. Similarly it will be important for Denbighshire as part of its overall monitoring role for the Welsh Education Strategic Plan to ensure that the current strong welsh medium ethos is retained, and intervenes as appropriate should this be diluted.

23.3 Initially the Current Proposal would have limited impact on families and the local communities when utilising the existing school sites based in both communities.

23.4 The Current Proposal may have a positive impact on pupils through an improved education provision. The way in which the sites will be used will be a decision for the headteacher and governing body to discuss and implement. Options that could be considered are keeping the pupils and staff as they are with increased opportunity for the 2 sites to come together for specific events. Pupils would benefit from interacting with a larger group of children and larger peer groups.

24. Response Form

24.1 A response form for comments, including an opportunity for consultees to register their wish to be notified of publication of the formal consultation report, appears at the end of this consultation document.

24.2 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk by no later than **Monday 16th March 2015**.

ⁱ The consultation document can be found in the School Organisation & Modernising section or you can follow this link [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

ⁱⁱ Formal Consultation Document for Children. This is available upon request from DCC [and/or from the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section by following this link [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation]

ⁱⁱⁱ Section 48 School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act;

^{iv} Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

^v The Estyn report relating to both schools may be accessed by following this link www.estyn.gov.uk.

^{vi} The Estyn report relating to both schools may be accessed by following this link www.estyn.gov.uk.

^{vii} The full document can be found on DCC Website- <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/education-and-schools/welsh-in-education-strategic-plan.aspx>

Appendix 1

Primary Education

The best way to become totally fluent in the Welsh language is to attend a primary school that offers Welsh-medium provision. In Denbighshire, Welsh-medium primary education is available at two different categories of schools, as defined by the Welsh Assembly Government:

- **Category 1 – Welsh-medium schools**
- **Category 2 – Dual stream schools, where Welsh and English provision exists side by side**

Category	Curriculum	Language of the School	Outcomes
Welsh-Medium Primary School – Category 1	All Pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is the main teaching medium at junior stage with at least 70% of the teaching through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at junior stage and is taught through the medium of English, and English may occasionally be used for some aspects of some subjects.	Welsh is the language of the day to day business of the school. Welsh is used as the language of communication with the pupils and for the school's administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages.	The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision and by the end of junior stage will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.
Dual Stream Primary School – Category 2	Two types of provision exist side-by-side in these schools. Parents/pupils opt either for the mainly Welsh-medium or mainly English-medium provision which is usually delivered as in categories 1 and 5 respectively.	Both Welsh and English are used in the day to day business of the school. The language of communication with the pupils is determined by the nature of the curricular provision, but in some schools high priority is given to creating a Welsh-language ethos throughout the school. The school communicates with parents in both languages.	For pupils in the Welsh stream, normal expectations are as for category 1. For pupils in the English medium stream, normal expectations are as for category 5.
Predominantly English Medium primary school but with significant use of Welsh – Category 4	Pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning in both languages but with greater emphasis on English. In junior stage, both Welsh and English is used in teaching but there is greater emphasis on English. Welsh is used as the medium of teaching or learning for between 20% and 50% of the primary curriculum overall.	The day to day language or languages of the school are determined by the school's linguistic context. Both languages are used as languages of communication with the pupils and for the school's administration. A high priority is given to creating a Welsh ethos. The school communicates with parents in both languages.	The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer to English medium secondary provision, but will have attained enhanced Welsh second language skills. Some pupils may be able to pursue a limited number of subjects through the medium of Welsh at secondary level where these are offered.

<p>Predominantly English medium primary school – Category 5</p>	<p>All pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning mainly through the medium of English. English is the main teaching medium at junior stage. Welsh is taught as a second language in junior stage, and some aspects of some subjects may be taught in Welsh. Less than 20% of the teaching is through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>English is the language of the day to day business of the school, but some Welsh is also used as a language of communication with the pupils with the aim of improving their capacity to use everyday Welsh. The school communicates with parents either in English or in both languages.</p>	<p>The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer to English medium secondary provision and continue to learn predominantly through the medium of English, learning Welsh as a second language.</p>

Appendix 2-

Alternative Provision

Information below available on My Local School website-

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/index.html?iaith=eng>

1. Education attainment

% achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2					
School Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Pen Barras	97.1%	90.0%	96.8%	94.3%	89.7%
Ysgol Bro Elwern	77.8%	85.7%	*	100%	66.7%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	66.7%	*	*	*	80.0%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	88.9%	91.7%	100.0%	94.1%	93.3%
Local Authority- Total	78.1%	82.3%	83.5%	86.0%	86.6%
Wales- Total	78.2%	80.0%	82.6%	84.3%	86.1%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

% pupils achieving the expected outcomes in the Foundation Phase areas of learning			
School Name	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Pen Barras	95.5%	94.7%	93.5%
Ysgol Bro Elwern	40.0%	*	*
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	66.7%	*	83.3%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	100.0%	100.0%	92.3%
Local Authority- Total	81.7%	84.9%	86.1%
Wales- Total	80.5%	83.0%	85.2%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

2. Free School Meals (FSM)

School Name	FSM- 3 year average 2014
Ysgol Pen Barras	1.6%
Ysgol Bro Elwern	13.8%
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	5.3%
Ysgol Llanfair DC	8.6%
Local Authority- Total	21.2%
Wales- Total	20.5%

3. Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Data- 2014

School Name	School Action	School Action Plus	Statemented
Ysgol Pen Barras	7.4%	3.7%	*
Ysgol Bro Elwern	*	*	*
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	*	*	*
Ysgol Llanfair DC	16.9%	*	*
Local Authority- Total	12.5%	12.8%	1.1%
Wales- Total	15.1%	8.8%	1.7%

*However as a result of very small cohorts in each year a meaningful comparison with local and national averages is not possible

4. Current full time pupil numbers

Current Full Time Pupil Numbers- September 2014								
School Name	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Ysgol Pen Barras	37	25	32	31	38	23	37	223
Ysgol Bro Elwern	5	7	8	2	4	7	2	35
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	2	8	7	6	3	6	3	35
Ysgol Llanfair DC	15	13	11	13	12	13	15	92

5. Current Part-time Nursery Pupil numbers- September 2014

School Name	Nursery
Ysgol Pen Barras	36
Ysgol Bro Elwern	5
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	12
Ysgol Llanfair DC	13

6. Full time Pupil numbers for the last 5 years for each school

Pupil Numbers 2010 – 2014- Full Time from January PLASC					
School Name	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Pen Barras	215	216	218	223	223
Ysgol Bro Elwern	43	36	32	33	33
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	23	20	27	31	39
Ysgol Llanfair DC	94	96	93	90	84

7. Projected pupil numbers for the next 5 years:

Projected Pupil Numbers- January 2014 PLASC					
School Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ysgol Pen Barras	221	216	224	218	218
Ysgol Bro Elwern	33	36	36	38	43
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	37	40	40	42	41
Ysgol Llanfair DC	82	80	83	87	87

8. Estyn Reports:

Estyn assesses the performance of schools. The inspection framework was changed in 2009/10 but prior to this 7 key questions were asked, namely:-

School	Ysgol Llanfair DC	Ysgol Bro Elwern
Date	June 2010	June 2009
1. How well do learners achieve?	Grade 2	Grade 2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	Grade 2	Grade 2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	Grade 1	Grade 2
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	Grade 2	Grade 2
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	Grade 2	Grade 3
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and	Grade 2	Grade 3

improve quality and standards?		
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	Grade 2	Grade 2

Key:

- Grade 1** Good with outstanding features
- Grade 2** Good features and no important shortcomings
- Grade 3** Good features outweigh shortcomings
- Grade 4** Some good features, but shortcomings in important areas
- Grade 5** Many important shortcomings

After 2009/10, the number of questions was reduced to 3.

The three Key Questions are:-

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is the provision?

Key Question 3: How good is the leadership and management?

School	Ysgol Pen Barras	Ysgol Pentrecelyn
Date	May 2011	November 2014
Key Question 1	Good	Adequate
Key Question 2	Good	Adequate
Key Question 3	Good	Good
Current Performance	Good	Adequate
Improvement Outlook	Good	Good

All Estyn reports can be found on the Estyn website www.estyn.gov.uk

Formal Consultation Response Form

Denbighshire County Council has proposed to close Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on the 31st of August 2016; and the Church in Wales will establish a new Area School on the existing sites from the 1st of September 2016. The next phase would see the Area School consolidated on a new site in the Llanfair/ Pentrecelyn area, subject to land availability and suitability. We are proposing that the new build will be ready by September 2017 therefore ensuring the split site will only be for one academic year. Councillors will consider approval for the capital funding in February 2015.

We would like to hear your views regarding the proposal. You can let your views be known in the following ways;

- If you are accessing this form online then please click **here** to complete the online survey;
- If you have received a hard copy of the response form please return your copy 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;
- Alternatively you can scan the attached form and email it to us at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk
- 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 **Monday 16th March 2015**. If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response please provide your names and address.

1. Are you in favour of the proposal?

(Please tick one box)

Yes	
No	

2. Please indicate whether you are responding as a:

Pupil of either school	Parent of either school	Staff Member of either school	Community Member	Other

If other, please indicate;

3. With which school are you most closely linked?

(Please tick only one box)

Ysgol Llanfair DC	
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	
Neither School	

4. Please indicate if any of the following have had an influence on your decision;

Impact on Education	
Impact on local community	

If other, please state:-

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(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

5. If the proposal is implemented would you send your child/ children to the Area School or would you choose another school? If you would choose another school, which one and why?

The new Area School	
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If other, please state:-

--

(Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

6. Please let us have any comments or views, positive or negative, that you have regarding the proposal:

(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) are 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 internal agencies who are involved with the Consultation, however only to inform decision makers of your views and 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.

Denbighshire County Council is the data controller for the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal information will be processed in accordance with that Act and is being collected for the purpose stated above only, and will not be shared with any other party. Should you have any queries regarding this please contact us via email at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk.

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

Yes	
No	

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

Yes	
No	

10. If you have answered yes to either of the two above questions please provide an email address below:

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Thank you for taking the time to respond.