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Formal Consultation Report-  
Relating to the proposal for a new 3-16  
Catholic School in Rhyl

June 2017

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and the Diocese of Wrexham have completed a period of formal consultation regarding the proposal for Denbighshire County Council to close St. Mary's Catholic Primary school (Ysgol Mair) and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019; and the Diocese of Wrexham to establish a new 3-16 Catholic School on the existing site from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.
- 1.2. The proposal is that the new school will be an English medium, Voluntary aided, 3-16 school.
- 1.3. The formal consultation began on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017.
- 1.4. Following the end of a school organisation consultation period, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the proposers 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.
- 1.5. This report should be considered by decision makers prior to determining whether or not to implement any proposal.

## **2. Formal Consultation**

- 2.1. Hardcopy and electronic versions of the Formal Consultation document were sent to 2,412 recipients. You can see the complete list of recipients in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2. The Formal Consultation documents were published on DCC's website and the Diocese of Wrexham's website on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017. We also produced different versions of the Formal Consultation document, one aimed at primary school pupils- the Children's version, and another version aimed at the secondary school pupils- the Young person's version.
- 2.3. All documentation, including the Formal Consultation document, Community, Equality and Welsh language impact assessment, Children and Young peoples' consultation document and the electronic version of the response form were published on the Denbighshire County Council and the Diocese of Wrexham website. All documents were available in both Welsh and English.

- 2.4. To help and encourage people to give us their views, we produced a response document (Formal Consultation Response Form). This Response Form formed part of the Consultation Document and as such was also published on the DCC and Diocese of Wrexham website. The Formal Consultation Response Form was converted into an online survey; a link to this survey was also published on the DCC and Diocese of Wrexham website.
- 2.5. A Frequently Asked Question document was also published and this was translated into Welsh, Polish and Tagalog. A number of hard copies of all versions of this document were left at Blessed Edward Jones and St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair.

### 3. Meetings

3.1 Meetings were held as followed:

- With St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones governors- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017,
- With St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones staff- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017,
- Public meeting with Rt. Rev'd Peter M.Brignall, Bishop of Wrexham, Rhyl Town Hall- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017,
- With parents of St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017,
- With parents of Blessed Edward Jones- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017,
- School Council at Blessed Edward Jones- 7<sup>th</sup> March (am),
- School Council at St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair- 7<sup>th</sup> March (pm),
- School council at Ysgol Emmanuel- 13<sup>th</sup> March.

3.2 A summary of the points raised at these meetings and the responses given at the time is available in **Appendix B**.

3.3 Consultation sessions were arranged for the School councils of St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones, as the schools directly involved in the proposals. A summary of both sessions can be found in **Appendix C**. Consultation sessions were offered to the school councils at Ysgol Bryn Heddyd, Ysgol Llywelyn, Ysgol Emmanuel and Christchurch school. Ysgol Emmanuel accepted this offer and details of this consultation session can also be found in **Appendix C**.

3.4 As part of the pupil consultation arrangements and age appropriate Response Form was also provided specifically for pupils. A total of 73 pupil forms were received from St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair year 4/5 pupils. The comments and questions submitted by pupils through the pupil forms are also summarised within **Appendix C**.

### 4. Consultation Response

4.1 In total 106 responses were received during the consultation period which included responses from Estyn and the GMB Union. The table below shows the connection to either school (or not) of each respondent:

Connection of Respondent	Total
--------------------------	-------

St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	21
Blessed Edward Jones	65
Both St. Marys and Blessed Edward Jones	7
No connection / Didn't state connection/ other	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

4.2 Support of the proposal is as follows:

	<b>Total</b>
For the proposal	98
Against the proposal	5
Didn't state either way	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

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

<b>Method of contact</b>	<b>Number of contacts received</b>
Formal Consultation Response Forms	100
Letters	1
Emails	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>

4.4 Respondents were as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
Pupil	4
Parent	40
Staff member	30

Community member	15
School Governor	8
Parent Governor	2
Other	7
<b>Total number of contacts</b>	<b>106</b>

4.5 Of the parents, including the 2 parent governors, who responded, classification by school as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	9
Blessed Edward Jones	27
Both St. Marys/ Blessed Edward Jones	5
Other	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>

4.6 Of the Governors, including the 2 parent governors who responded, classification by school as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	2
Blessed Edward Jones	5
Both St. Marys/ Blessed Edward Jones	1
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

4.7 Of the staff who responded, classification by school as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	5

Blessed Edward Jones	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

4.8 Of the 4 pupils who responded, classification by schools as follows:

<b>Responding as:</b>	<b>Number</b>
St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	0
Blessed Edward Jones	3
Other- Ysgol Bryn Hedydd	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

4.9 **Appendix D** summaries the comments received via letter and email.

## **5 Response Forms**

5.1 The Formal Consultation Response Form was designed to establish:

- whether or not people were in favour of the Proposals;
- the capacity in which they were responding;
- whether or not they were linked to either school;
- what influenced their views on the Proposals and any negative or positive comments they had;
- If they had any alternative options to the current proposal that they would like the proposers to consider;
- whether or not they would send their child(ren) to the new 3-16 school if the Proposals were implemented; and
- whether they wanted to make any other comments.

5.2 A summary of the responses to the Formal Consultation Response Form is set out in **Appendix E** together with the Proposers' response.

## 6 Response from Estyn

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

Estyn Comment	Proposers' Response
It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.	Agreed
The proposer has appropriately considered the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo.	Agreed
The proposer has demonstrated that projected numbers by 2021 will still leave the school with over 300 surplus places.	<p>This projection is made up of current projections for St. Mary's / Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones combined.</p> <p>We anticipate that the new school will attract additional pupils as evidence from previous new builds have shown. At present there is a low number of pupils who attend Catholic primary schools in neighbouring authorities and then transfer to Blessed Edward Jones. We anticipate that this proposal may reverse this trend.</p> <p>In section 13 of the Formal Consultation document we detail the future demand in the town of Rhyl and the importance of maintaining both a primary and secondary option.</p>
The proposal outlines projected deficit budgets for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School at the end of the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years. The proposer has not considered well enough how the new school will be supported financially in its first few years of operation as low cohorts move, in particular, through the secondary phase of the school.	The Local Authority will carefully review the financial position based on pupil numbers. Recent projects have highlighted that additional support is required during the transition phase and any requests of this nature would have to be discussed and agreed at the School Budget Forum.
The proposer has suitably considered the impact on other schools in the area that may be affected by the proposals. It has	Agreed



<p>outlined how the new school could offer places to pupils in currently over-subscribed primary schools.</p>	
<p>The proposer has demonstrated appropriately that pupil numbers in Rhyl High School are projected to rise and that there may be insufficient capacity for the school to accommodate pupils from Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School should Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School cease to provide secondary education.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>The proposer has considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements. It intends to continue to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>The proposer has completed an initial equality impact assessment that concluded that the proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>The proposer also considers the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language and reasonably concludes that there will be no negative impact on the Welsh language or Welsh medium provision in the area.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>The proposer has provided tables of performance data for the end of Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. The tables provide information of the schools' performance against the average for the family of schools, the local authority and Wales. However, there is little analysis of the information provided in the tables.</p> <p>The proposer does not provide data on pupil performance at the end of Key Stage 3.</p>	<p>We believe that the paragraphs in section 19.10 and 19.11 around the impact on outcomes and provision help put the figures into context.</p> <p>We did focus on Foundation, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 statistics. We acknowledge Key Stage 3 should also have been included- all statistics were taken from My Local School website.</p> <p>Information regarding Blessed Edward Jones Key stage 3 pupil performance can be found in the table below:</p>

**Percentage of Pupils who have reached the expected level – Key Stage 3 Core subject indicator**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>School - Total</b>	54.9%	51.2%	59.1%	56.9%	62.2%	55.8%	78.3%
<b>Family - Total</b>	53.1%	58.6%	63.7%	69.1%	74.6%	76.6%	81.4%
<b>Local Authority - Total</b>	63.9%	65.5%	71.9%	75.0%	83.2%	84.3%	86.4%
<b>Wales - Total</b>	63.7%	68.0%	72.5%	77.0%	81.0%	83.9%	85.9%

Further details for Key Stage 3, 2016 below:

	Core Subject Indicator	English	Maths	Science
School	78.3%	86.7%	81.7%	90.0%
Family	81.4%	86.8%	88.0%	90.3%
Local Authority	86.4%	89.5%	90.9%	93.1%
Wales	85.9%	89.2%	90.1%	92.8%

The provider considers appropriately that there should be no adverse effect on the progress and wellbeing of pupils with additional learning needs.

Agreed

The proposer has suitably outlined that the proposal will likely enhance the quality of teaching and learning. The proposer clearly demonstrates that the new building will provide a better learning environment for all pupils.

Agreed

The proposer also details fittingly how the new facilities will better allow the school to offer a more varied and appropriate curriculum at key stage 4. The proposer also establishes the benefits of having shared area such as the chapel and dining area and the advantages of aiding transition between key phases and stages of education.

Agreed

## APPENDIX A

### Consultation Document Recipient List

No	Stakeholder	Number of recipients
1.	Parents of pupils of St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair*	209
2.	Parents of pupils of Blessed Edward Jones*	254
3.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Christchurch*	269
4.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Emmanuel*	313
5.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Llywelyn*	468
6.	Parents of pupils of Ysgol Bryn Hedydd*	349
7.	Teachers and support staff at St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair	37
8.	Teachers and support staff at Blessed Edward Jones	48
9.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Christchurch	66
10.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Emmanuel	63
11.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Llywelyn	66
12.	Teachers and support staff at Ysgol Bryn Hedydd	54
13.	The Governing Bodies of St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair, Blessed Edward Jones, Ysgol Christchurch, Ysgol Emmanuel, Ysgol Llywelyn and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd.	6

14.	The School Councils of St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair, Blessed Edward Jones, Ysgol Christchurch, Ysgol Emmanuel, Ysgol Llywelyn and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd.	6
15.	The Diocese of St Asaph	1
16.	Headteachers and Chair of Governors of all schools in Denbighshire ( Primary, Secondary & Special Schools)	112
17.	Headteacher and Chair of governors in Conwy of the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Sant Jospeh’s RC</li> <li>• Ysgol Blessed William Davies</li> </ul>	4
18.	Headteacher and Chair of Governors at St.Richard Gwyn Roman Catholic High school	2
19.	Headteacher and Chair of Governors at Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes, Our Lady’s Roman Catholic Primary school	2
20.	Denbighshire Children and Young People’s Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership	2
21.	Independent nursery providers in the Rhyl area	7
22.	Coleg Llandrillo	1
23.	Prestatyn and Rhyl Sixth partnership	1
24.	All Denbighshire County Councillors	47
25.	Local and regional Assembly Members and MPs	8
26.	Rhyl Town Council	1
27.	The Welsh Government	3
28.	Estyn	1
29.	Relevant Teaching and support staff Trade Unions	6
30.	Taith	1
31.	North Wales Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service	1
32.	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner	1

33.	Communities First partnership	1
34.	Flintshire County Council	1
35.	Conwy County Borough Council	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,412</b>

\* one copy was sent per family

## APPENDIX B

### Summary of Comments/ Questions raised in the meetings

Shared Governors meeting –St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones Governing Bodies- 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017

No	Comment/ Question Raised	Response
1.	What is going to happen to the pupils during the build phase?	This has already been considered. In terms of the build the local authority would work closely with the contractor to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff. Preliminary discussions with contractors have taken place and it is clear there will need to be a clear and well managed plan.  Work is currently taking place at Ysgol Glan Clwyd and this has been a phased build, it can work when organised well.
2.	Will it be a complete new build?	Yes, the proposal is for a complete new build. The budget is £23.8 million and will need to manage people's expectations in terms of what can be delivered for that.
3.	Obviously mindful of the area we serve- will there be financial assistance in regards to the new uniform?	Yes, this type of assistance has occurred in other school organisation proposals which have been delivered, i.e. with Ysgol Carreg Emlyn 1 new sweatshirt per pupil was provided, consideration would be given to support something similar.
4.	Uncertainty around pupils numbers whilst we go through this transition.	The Local Authority and the Diocese believe that numbers, especially in the secondary

		sector will increase. The Local Authority have strong evidence in relation to what has happened in Rhyl High since their new building opened.
5.	The age group of the school is stated as 3-16, what about the playgroup facility? And what will happen to the breakfast club?	Both the playgroup and breakfast club are factored into our planning of the new school.
6.	Parents will have concerns about little ones mixing with older children.	<p>The 3-16 model can work extremely well when the school is well organised and the school day planned effectively.</p> <p>There will be segregation between the Key phases. The ethos that can be created with a 3-16 school is one of caring and nurturing and can be positive for all age groups.</p>
7.	Will both schools be involved in the design?	<p>Yes there will be consultation with both schools- governors, staff and pupils.</p> <p>There will also be opportunities for parents and the community to comment on the designs.</p>
8.	Will it be an off the shelf design?	No, the Welsh Government may be looking at something like this in the next round of funding but for this project it will not be an off the shelf design.
9.	Parents are concerned about the building stage.	<p>This is understandable and the Local Authority, Diocese and the contractor would all work closely with both schools to minimise disruption to the pupil's education.</p> <p>There will also be a variety of opportunities to engage with pupils at both schools during the construction phase. In previous projects this has worked well, with examples such as pupils designing an outdoor area, talks from contractors about working in construction, visit to a factory to see the steel framework being made and women in construction events.</p>
10.	What will the name of the new school be?	<p>The Temporary Governing Body, once formed, will have to decide on a name for the school.</p> <p>In previous amalgamations the pupils have helped in coming up with ideas for the name,</p>

		logo and uniform. This is just one option to be considered, but ultimately it will be the responsibility of the Temporary Governing Body to name the school.
11.	Current numbers at Blessed Edward Jones are a concern.	<p>It is important to manage how the school is marketed and how the 3-16 model works. The right messages need to be getting out in Rhyl and the wider area.</p> <p>Working with the headteachers at the Catholic primary schools in Conwy and Gwynedd will also be important. This work needs to start now as the transition to the new school over the next few years will be important. Current Year 4 pupils in St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair will potentially be the first Year 7s in the new school.</p> <p>Also work will need to be done to ensure that the community know that pupils can enter at Year 7 from other primary schools in the area.</p>
12.	We see the secondary element going up to 600 capacity quite quickly- this needs to be reflected in the design of the core facilities.	Point noted and at design stage this can be discussed further.
13.	What will happen to the offsite school playing field on Ffordd Derwen?	It is important even at this early stage to manage expectations. Our aim is to make the best possible use of the space on site and retaining the offsite provision. Consideration will be given to improving the accessibility of this.

Shared Staff meeting- Blessed Edward Jones staff and St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2017

No	Comment/ Question Raised	Response
14.	Could the proposal be stopped i.e. not supported by Cabinet?	<p>Realistically yes it could be stopped. As a Local Authority we still have hurdles to overcome, the statutory process to go through and Welsh Government funding application.</p> <p>However, as a Local Authority we have a good track record of delivering and building new schools. Also elected members are behind this proposal, especially those who</p>

		<p>represent Rhyl. Of course we have elections coming up but we believe there will still be support for the proposal and Cabinet will support the project going forward.</p>
15.	<p>Is there anything we as staff can do in ensuring the proposal does move forward?</p>	<p>Both the Diocese and the Local Authority believe this is an exciting proposal and we would encourage people to respond positively to the consultation.</p> <p>Of course if you have concerns about the proposal please outline these so both the Diocese and Local Authority can address them. From this process a consultation report will be produced for the Cabinet to consider- if they see that there is a high percentage of people supporting the proposal we would hope they would then support it in moving forward.</p>
16.	<p>The timescale is very tight- is there room for movement?</p>	<p>Not much- we have deadlines around the funding that we have to meet.</p> <p>All we can say is it is tight but as the Local Authority we are in constant communication with the Welsh Government and we would not be here if we did not think it could not be done. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes before people see the diggers get on site and it is only then that people believe it is actually going to happen.</p>
17.	<p>In terms of the new build, what will happen if the main entrance to the school needs to be moved? It is not as easy as the Rhyl High build was.</p>	<p>The proposal is for a complete new build. The procurement process will begin shortly in appointing a contractor to begin the design works.</p> <p>The construction company will have to manage the movement of pupils and work with both schools to ensure everyone's safety.</p> <p>There will probably be some form of phasing- this has worked well over at Ysgol Glan Clwyd where the new extension is now complete and all students have moved into this whilst the refurbishment is underway. Already initial discussions with contractors have taken place and they see no significant issues with this. It will be about managing it effectively and working closely with both existing schools.</p>



18.	Can you explain how stakeholders will be involved in the process, particularly pupils and staff at both schools.	<p>In previous school organisation projects the Local Authority have looked to engage with pupils and staff as early as possible. The school councils at both schools will be discussing the proposal next week with the team.</p> <p>In terms of moving forward with the design, again all pupils and staff will be given opportunities to comment and feed into the design process as the project develops. Once on site there may be opportunities, especially for the older pupils to be engaged with the construction element. In the past pupils have designed the new logos and come up with name suggestions and this can be looked at here with this proposal.</p>
19.	In the presentation it refers to the management structures being split into phases – would there be an expectation that we are able to teach pupils from years 5-8?	<p>As a Local Authority we have no view on this, they are just some examples other 3-16/18 schools use.</p> <p>There are a number of different models which work, consideration regarding the new curriculum will be needed and the transition between Years 6 and 7. The Temporary Governing Body will need to agree what the staff structure will look like.</p>
20.	Are we looking at redundancies?	<p>As part of this proposal we are not looking at any, however I cannot make any promises- it will be up to the Temporary Governing Body to decide on the staff required and of course this will take into consideration pupil numbers- the Local Authority and the Diocese hope this proposal will assist pupil numbers, especially in the secondary offer.</p>
21.	It feels nice to have both the Council and the Dioceses support having been through 1 consultation process already that did not go forward, what happens if this is not approved?	<p>If the project was not approved the status quo would remain and there would no guarantee of any allocation as part of the Band B Welsh Government funding; as such the sustainability of both schools would be brought into question.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledge that this has been a long drawn out process but I would like to assure you that the Council is committed to this project. There are many reasons why the first proposal did not come</p>

		<p>to fruition but we have not given up and walked away and we believe that this is the right way forward.</p> <p>The 2 governing bodies are behind the proposal and the Bishop is very engaged in the detail of the project and very supportive.</p>
22.	<p>What about other feeder primaries that currently feed into Blessed Edward Jones – will there still be opportunities for pupils from other primary schools to join this school?</p>	<p>Pupils from these schools will still be able to join the school at Year 7. The proposal is currently looking at a four form entry into the secondary so in addition to those coming from Year 6 there will be a minimum of 40 spaces for pupils from other schools to join.</p> <p>The primary head teachers of the Catholic schools in Conwy and Gwynedd have been sent the consultation documents and should be aware of the proposal. Although the school will be located in Rhyl it is fair to say that it is not just for Rhyl only, but a wider area.</p>
23.	<p>Pupil numbers are falling- is this a risk whilst we are in this phase?</p>	<p>From the Local Authority and the Diocese's point of view this is a risk we need to be mindful of, the schools themselves need to get a positive message into the community.</p> <p>The Local Authority have to apply for the funding from Welsh Government and they need to see that the school will be a success once built.</p> <p>For the Local Authority it is clear we need another secondary school in the town, we believe there are the pupil numbers in the area to sustain the proposed school.</p>
24.	<p>The local press during the previous consultations were very negative, what can we do about ensuring the same does not happen again?</p>	<p>The Local Authority and the Diocese will work with their relevant press officers to ensure that the messages going out are positive and accurate.</p> <p>It is also the responsibility of the community, governors and staff to ensure the proposal is talked about in a positive, enthusiastic manner. The pupils themselves can also help in taking a positive message into their communities.</p>

No	Comment/ Question Raised	Response
25.	Can you provide assurances that this new building will be environmentally friendly, taking into consideration factors such as renewable energy and waste water collection?	<p>Throughout the design process architects will carefully consider the environmental impacts of the building.</p> <p>Ideas will also be sought from pupils in terms of how environmental considerations could be integrated into the project. Furthermore, as a key part of the criteria for appointing a contractor for this project will be their ability to meet certain requirements in relation to environmental sustainability.</p>
26.	Could some of the money that has been allocated for this project be kept to one side to support some of our families with expenses incurred due to the project, such as new uniforms?	<p>Although the amount of money requested for the project sounds like a lot it will all be required for a build of this scale.</p> <p>However, the Local Authority are fully aware of the potential impacts on families and will be closely monitoring these and will assess what support we may be able to provide. In previous amalgamations the Local Authority have assisted the schools in regard to the new uniform.</p>
27.	What will happen to the Ffordd Derwen site once the new build is complete? Will it be used as playing fields?	<p>The proposal will be looking for the most sustainable design for the building along with making the best use of the site. There have been no final decisions made as yet in terms of specific uses for residual areas, however whatever choices are made will be in line with the requirements of the curriculum.</p>
28.	What will the name of the new school be? Will there be different names for the primary and secondary elements?	<p>The new build will be one school with one name. The Temporary Governing Body will decide on the name, uniform and logo.</p>
29.	I expected when I sent my children to a school in Wales that they would be able to speak Welsh. I understand that this will be an English school but what level of Welsh will my children have when they leave?	<p>Welsh Government recently released a statement that they want the number of Welsh speakers to increase to 1 million by 2050.</p> <p>It will however be up to the schools governors to establish what part Welsh will play in the development of the curriculum.</p>
30.	Will this school purely be for Catholics or will other faiths be welcome? How will admissions be controlled?	<p>This will be a Catholic school, however there will be inclusion of provision for families in search of a Catholic education for their children.</p>

		Governors will be responsible for establishing the admissions criteria including how admissions will be handled if oversubscription were to occur.
31.	Will there be room in the new school for pupils to join from out of county? How would transport work across county boundaries?	Parents have the right to access their nearest appropriate school and the Diocese are keen to emphasise that although this school is based in Rhyl it is not purely for Rhyl residents.  In terms of transport, every local authority has their own transport policies which will dictate who will be allocated transport.
32.	Will current pupils at St. Mary's/Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones have to apply for a place in the new school?	No, current pupils at both schools will automatically be allocated a place in the new school.
33.	Will parking facilities be improved at the new site?	Significant consideration will be given to both parking and the impact on highways. Consultation will be undertaken throughout, particularly on the final design in order to address any key concerns from stakeholders.
34.	How will pupil's safety be ensured during the building work?	Some preliminary work has already been undertaken with contractors to establish the practicalities of managing safety during construction.  Denbighshire has significant experience of successfully and safely delivering projects such as these e.g. Ysgol Glan Clwyd.  Due to the additional capacity within Blessed Edward Jones, this could also open up some additional possibilities for accommodating pupils during the works.

Parents meetings- St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 & Blessed Edward Jones 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017

No	Comment/ Question Raised	Response
35.	Renewable energy needs to be considered in the design and how this could be used as potential income generation for the school.	This will be considered at the design stage, where we will consult with schools, pupils, parents, residents and invite comments and ideas.  The school has to be fit for purpose and on any build we look at getting BREAM excellent rating. At the end of the day we are building a school and we need to manage expectations

		around that and we need to be sensible as building costs do increase.
36.	Will the parking situation be considered and the entrance and drop off points carefully planned? Unique situation as both schools run alongside separate roads.	<p>During the design process DCC's Highways department will be involved in ensuring the plans are safe. Considerations will be given in regards to the structure of the school day and how that is planned as well as the impact on neighbouring streets.</p> <p>It is hoped that the new school will improve the highways situation, not make things worse.</p>
37.	With the new curriculum coming out soon- I hope that this school is not going to be a testing ground?	This will certainly not be the case. The Local Authority are committed to making the best of the new curriculum and we want the new school to be nurturing and caring environment.
38.	Will solar panels be considered? The new type being developed that look like tiles charge battery packs which could then be used? Could the school trail it? Also floor tiles which harness energy which can then be sold on. Rain water as well can be used for cisterns. Every penny saved is a penny more for my children's education.	All these ideas are really important and all points have been noted.
39.	How will the new school effect the SEN budget which is already tight?	<p>This money has now been delegated to the schools themselves to manage.</p> <p>There is still a great deal to do in terms of identifying the correct provision for a child at an early stage. The Local Authority appreciate that the schools are put under pressure by some parents, however it is important to examine all options in regards to SEN support from group work to more specified one to one work.</p>

## **APPENDIX C**

### **School Council Findings**

#### **Report on the consultation with the School Councils of St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair, Blessed Edward Jones and Ysgol Emmanuel**

##### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The School Organisation Code requires Denbighshire County Council and the Diocese of Wrexham (the proposers) to make suitable arrangements to consult with the pupils of any school which is affected by school organisation proposals.
- 1.2 The code says that consultation must include consultation with the school councils of schools which are affected and should also include consultation with individual pupils, where this is appropriate and practicable.
- 1.3 The requirement has been set in respect of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which states that children and young people have a right to have their views and opinions heard and listened to in decisions made by adults which affect their lives.
- 1.4 As potential feeder primary schools the school council of the following schools were offered a session discussing the proposal: Ysgol Llywelyn, Ysgol Emmanuel, Christchurch school and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd. Ysgol Emmanuel took the offer up and the results of the session are detailed below.

##### **2.0 Method of Consultation**

- 2.1 Denbighshire County Council and the Diocese of Wrexham published a separate Children's version and Young Persons version of the Formal Consultation document. Copies of the Children's document were provided to St. Mary's / Ysgol Mair, Ysgol Llywelyn, Ysgol Emmanuel, Christchurch school and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd. Copies of the Young person's version of the Formal Consultation document were provided to Blessed Edward Jones.
- 2.2 Meetings were arranged by Denbighshire County Council Learner Voice Champion with the school councils. The meeting with the School Council of Blessed Edward Jones took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 10am and the meeting with the School Council of St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 1pm. The meeting with Ysgol Emmanuel's school council took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **3.0 Consultation Response**

- 3.1 The sessions aimed to be as interactive as possible, each meeting focused on similar elements:
- **How do they feel about the proposal?** - A set of Emoji cards were given to each member. School council members were asked how they felt about the proposal and to present the emoji/s that summed up their feelings, if members wanted to discuss why they had chosen a particular one this was discussed openly in front of the whole group.
  - **What is important to them about school?** -With the primary school councils each member had a gingerbread drawing and were asked to write within the gingerbread man what they felt was important to them about school. The session with Blessed Edward Jones was done slightly differently as they were given post it notes and asked to stick them on one large gingerbread man and these were then discussed as a group.
  - **Any questions/ worries?** - Each pupil took a small bit of paper wrote down any fears, worries or questions, scrunched them up and threw them in a 'worry pond' anonymously. Before the end of the session facilitators addressed any worries/ questions that came out of this exercise.
  - **What you would like to see in the new school/ hopes for the new school?**- With the primary school council members we had an open discussion about what they would like in the new school and ideas were written down on flip chart paper by the facilitator. With Blessed Edward Jones' session we split participants into groups and asked them to map out how they see their school now and what can be done in the new school to improve things.

### **4.0 Response from the School Council at Blessed Edward Jones**

- 4.1 How do you feel about St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School becoming one school?

- Happy
- Hopeful
- Surprised
- Confused- Why are you joining the 2 schools?
- Excited
- Concerned- over the little pupils mixing with older ones.
- Sad- All the memories will be gone.
- Angry- as won't be here when it's built.
- Nervous- will it work?
- Don't mind
- Worried

4.2 What is important to you about school?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food (10 pupils)</li> <li>• WIFI (8 pupils)</li> <li>• Better internet connection (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Quality of education (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Friends (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Better sport equipment/ facilities (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Facilities- canteen and toilets (3 pupils)</li> <li>• Increased after school activities (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Fitness and health gym (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Indoor and outdoor social spaces (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Canteen and nicer food (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Cheaper food (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Teachers</li> <li>• Less hours in school</li> <li>• Discipline- 2 strikes and you are out</li> <li>• New locks on toilet doors</li> <li>• New and nicer uniform</li> <li>• Punish and merits</li> <li>• Important to have people to talk to when in need</li> <li>• Timetable to be more organised</li> <li>• Good equipment</li> <li>• Caring environment for all people</li> <li>• Anti-bullying</li> <li>• More books</li> <li>• How bad behaviour is dealt with</li> <li>• Less litter, cleaner</li> <li>• Lunch times passes</li> <li>• Kebabs/ pizza on a Friday</li> <li>• Better rewards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different halls where exams &amp; sports are separate</li> <li>• Form time- morning only</li> <li>• Handling disturbance during class</li> <li>• More active activities instead of pen and paper</li> <li>• Having form class in the morning</li> <li>• More school sports teams</li> <li>• Elevators</li> <li>• Safe environment</li> <li>• Music equipment</li> <li>• 3G Football pitch</li> <li>• A lounge</li> <li>• X-Box/ playstation room</li> <li>• Vending machines</li> <li>• Teach people how they can help you if you need it</li> <li>• Break and lunch accessories</li> <li>• To be able to concentrate in class</li> <li>• Outdoor course</li> <li>• Good environment</li> <li>• Good facilities</li> <li>• Common rooms</li> <li>• Somewhere to stay when its raining/cold</li> <li>• Behaviour</li> <li>• Bigger library</li> <li>• Higher expectation to get in</li> <li>• More activities in school</li> <li>• Listen to other peoples ideas</li> <li>• Give feedback</li> <li>• More subjects</li> <li>• Chapel</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football facilities</li> <li>• Developed playground- more benches etc</li> <li>• More different types of food</li> <li>• High end/ better technology</li> <li>• Outdoor canteen</li> <li>• More variety of sets in different subjects</li> </ul>	
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#### 4.3 Worries:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Time when school starts and finishes (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Teacher help for people in need</li> <li>• Having mixed years could make behaviour worse</li> <li>• Close minded students/ teachers</li> <li>• No staff</li> <li>• Teachers might not be able to get to know each and every student because there are so many</li> <li>• No outside interaction with other schools.</li> <li>• Our education gets ruined because of students bad behaviour- how do we deal with that?</li> <li>• If both schools are demolished the space should be used wisely.</li> <li>• Bullying might increase</li> <li>• Racism</li> <li>• Increased bullying- problems with controlling students outside on breaks</li> <li>• Behaviour could get worse</li> </ul>
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#### 4.4 Questions with responses given at the session:

Question	Response
If you had to choose who are your main priority? Year 11?	All year groups are important and if the plan is agreed, the school will be designed to meet the needs of all pupils. It will be important to ensure that during the building work that disruption to students learning is kept to a minimum.
What time will school finish? How long will the school day be?	This will be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body who will decide how the school day will be structured.
How would you resolve the younger years getting bullied?	The Temporary Governing Body would draw up an Anti-bullying policy which would detail how the school would deal with bullying.

	<p>The design of the new school will have dedicated areas for primary and secondary pupils. There will be separation between year groups and differences in terms of timetabling the school day so primary aged children would not be on the yard at the same time as secondary pupils.</p> <p>So although you will be in one school together the contact between primary and secondary pupils during the school day will be low.</p>
Why are we joining together?	<p>The Local Authority and the Diocese of Wrexham believe that this is the best way forward in ensuring pupils have the right facilities to learn in. Both schools currently need a lot of money spending on the buildings to repair them. The proposal for on school will ensure the school will be stronger and more efficient.</p>
How much will the school cost?	<p>The school will cost approximately £23 million.</p>
Who will be the headteacher?	<p>This will be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body who will need to appoint a new headteacher prior to the school opening.</p>
Concerns around primary pupils on the same site	<p>There will be segregation between year groups and differences in terms of timetabling the school day so for example primary aged pupils would not be on the yard at the same time as secondary pupils.</p>
Can we have a sixth form please?	<p>There will be no sixth form included. Blessed Edward Jones current pupils who wish to continue their education have the option of joining the Rhyl Prestatyn Sixth partnership and this will not change.</p>

#### 4.5 What would you like to see in the new school:

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevator</li> <li>• Bigger Chapel- for assemblies</li> <li>• Bigger library</li> <li>• Free Wi-fi</li> <li>• Specific exam room/ hall</li> <li>• Chapel for primary/ Chapel for secondary</li> </ul> |
|---|

- Toilet facilities very important
- Solar panels
- Eco-friendly
- More energy efficient
- Sheltered areas
- Social areas- indoor and outdoor
- Common rooms
- Time-out space
- First aid room
- KFC
- Bike stands
- Cameras and security
- Lockers
- Vending machines

**5.0 Response from the School Council at St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair**

5.1 How do you feel about St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School becoming one school?

- Excited/ happy
- Not worried
- Sad- Will miss the old school
- Confused- Why?
- Excited for brand new school
- Surprised its happening so quickly
- Happy- meet new friends
- Scared going to a new school
- Confused- out of no-where
- Excited for a big school and new friends
- Angry- like this school
- Worried about the building being too big
- Sad- lose the memories of the old school

5.2 What is important to you about school?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachers (9 pupils)</li> <li>• To be with my/ making friends (9 pupils)</li> <li>• Being in the school council (8 pupils)</li> <li>• Learning/ getting a good education ( 8 pupils)</li> <li>• Healthy eating (7 pupils)</li> <li>• Swimming (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Playing sport/ keeping active (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Cultural events (5 pupils)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having good equipment</li> <li>• Having a quiet space to calm down and talk</li> <li>• Fundraising events</li> <li>• Languages in the school</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World book day (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Extra curricular activities (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Clean toilets (3 pupils)</li> <li>• Art (3 pupils)</li> <li>• Music (3 pupils)</li> <li>• Environment (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Support (2 pupils)</li> <li>• To look after each other</li> <li>• Having a big playground</li> </ul>	
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### 5.3 Worries

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullying from the high school aged pupils (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Making new friends (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Delays in the school being built</li> <li>• Getting lost- new school will be much bigger</li> <li>• There might not be any clubs</li> </ul>
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### 5.4 Any questions:

Question	Response
Is there going to be 2 Headteachers?	No, there will be one school and therefore one headteacher.
If I got bullied, would I have someone to go and talk to?	Yes the school would have an Anti-bullying procedure in place which would explain what to do if you are experiencing bullying.
Where will the new school be built?	On the current sites of St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones.
Will the primary and secondary school pupils be separated?	Yes pupils would be separated.
Do you have to stay in this school when you go to high school?	The new school will be a 3 -16 through school, so pupils would have a place in the school for both primary and secondary. However this is subject to parental preference, so if in year 6 you wanted to move to a different secondary school you could.
Where will the little ones play?	The school will be designed in such a way that the play areas and the building itself will be split into areas to ensure that there is separation between the younger and older pupils.

What will happen to the current building?	Once the new school is built the current buildings of both schools will be demolished to make way for the external areas of the new school.
Why can't you just knock the fence down in between the 2 schools?	This would not improve the facilities at the schools which are in need of upgrading.
Is the school going to close?	Yes St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair will close on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019 and the new 3-16 school will open the next day on the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2019.
Is there going to be big changes?	If the proposal goes ahead the changes will be quite big yes. Pupils here will have a new building and playground, however you will still be with your friends.

#### 5.5 Hopes for the new school:

- New and specialist equipment e.g. sport, computers, playground (4 pupils)
- Improved outdoor areas e.g. forest school, bigger football pitch (2 pupils)
- Adventure play area: slides, climbing frames and line markings
- Alternative spaces to use when grass is wet e.g. all weather pitch
- Dance studio
- Friends to stay in the same class
- Music room
- Bigger canteen
- Improved toilets
- Paths to school improved
- Lollipop patrol

### 6.0 Response from the School Council of Ysgol Emmanuel

#### 6.1 How do you feel about St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School becoming one school?

- Happy ( 8 pupils)
- Not worried- does not impact on me ( 8 pupils)
- Proud
- Worried about the size
- Angry- why can't it stay the same
- Excited
- Happy
- Sad and confused- you won't know where you are going/ miss the old schools
- Excited- bigger and better
- Hopeful that they will build it

- Happy- new uniform

6.2 What is important to you about school?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning/ getting a good education ( 15 pupils)</li> <li>• To be with my/ making friends (13 pupils)</li> <li>• ICT (10 pupils)</li> <li>• Healthy eating/ lifestyles ( 8 pupils)</li> <li>• Play time- sports, keeping active (7 pupils)</li> <li>• Teachers (6 pupils)</li> <li>• Success (6 pupils)</li> <li>• School council (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Home time (5 pupils)</li> <li>• Having my voice heard (4 pupils)</li> <li>• Team work ( 4 pupils)</li> <li>• Being safe (3 pupils)</li> <li>• A tidy school (3 pupils)</li> <li>• Breakfast/ after school club (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Equipment (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Reading ( 2 pupils)</li> <li>• Support (2 pupils)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going on trips</li> <li>• Welsh</li> <li>• Respect</li> <li>• To look after each other</li> <li>• Clean toilets</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Homework</li> </ul>
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6.3 Worries:

- Bullying/ fighting (3 pupils)
- Hope the building is built well
- Worried if the school goes wrong

6.4 Any questions

Question	Response
Will the new school have a new uniform?	Yes, although this will be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body.
Will they have the same lessons?	Yes, the lessons will still be the same.
Will they change the school logo/ badge?	Yes, as the school will also have a new name they will need a new logo, badge and uniform. This will be a decision for the Temporary Governing Body to make.

Will they have the same teachers?	The staffing structure will be decided by the new Temporary Governing Body of the new school. As a Local Authority we would advise that all staff at both schools currently should be 'ring-fenced' for jobs at the new school.
If they do build the school, will the children from Ysgol Mair be in the lessons with the high school children?	No, lessons will not be together, the primary aged pupils will have lessons as they do now in their relevant year groups/ classes and the secondary pupils will do the same.

### 6.5 Hopes for the new school

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy food (2 pupils)</li> <li>• Swimming pool</li> <li>• Clean toilets</li> <li>• Big dinner hall</li> <li>• Healthy snack shop/ trolley</li> <li>• Nice food at lunch</li> <li>• New equipment</li> <li>• Big classrooms</li> <li>• ICT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extracurricular activities</li> <li>• Own areas ( primary and secondary)</li> <li>• Places to socialise</li> <li>• Reading room</li> <li>• Quiet room/ chill out space</li> <li>• School council</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• No loud/ bossy teachers</li> </ul>
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## 7. Children's Response forms:

7.1 We received 73 Children's Response Forms from St. Mary's/Ysgol Mair Year 4/5 pupils. A summary of the responses are set out below:

### ***How do you feel about St. Mary's/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High school becoming one school??***

- No opinion/ not bothered- going to a different high school- (10 pupils)
- Excited (8 pupils)
- Happy (8 pupils)
- OK (7 Pupils)
- Nervous and excited (5 pupils)
- Sacred of getting lost (3 pupils)
- Fine (3 pupils)
- Great idea (3 pupils)
- Feel great (3 pupils)
- Sad and happy (2 pupils)
- Worried and happy (2 pupils)
- Nervous (2 pupils)
- Scared ( 2 pupils)
- Like it as will be with sibling (2 pupils)
- Not sure

- Upset and excited
- Good
- Sad
- Good- if I can stay with my friends
- Excited, happy and sad
- Nervous, worried, excited and happy
- Scared, nervous and happy
- Good but scared of getting lost
- Scared and happy
- Sad and worried
- Excited but scared of getting lost
- Scared and sad
- Amazing
- Worried about bullying
- Excited and happy

***How do you feel about having a new school?***

- No opinion/ not bothered- going to a different high school (13 pupils)
- Happy (12 pupils)
- Excited (10 pupils)
- Sad and happy (6 pupils)
- Scared (4 pupils)
- Nervous (3 pupils)
- Great (2 pupils)
- Happy and excited (2 pupils)
- Good ( 2 pupils)
- Wish we could see what the new school will be like (2 pupils)
- Worried (2 pupils)
- Sad- will miss this school
- Happy, excited and a bit sad
- Will miss Ysgol Mair but new school will be nice
- Would like same headteacher
- OK
- Excited and proud
- Seems really cool
- It will be better as with my sibling
- It will be better as a mixed school
- Worried about bullying
- Happy and nervous
- Happy and proud
- Scared and sad
- Happy for the other pupils
- Scared- swearing and fighting

***How do you feel about sharing a school with secondary school aged pupils?***

- Scared (11 pupils)



- Worried- bullying/ smoking/ swearing (8 pupils)
- OK (7 pupils)
- Excited (5 pupils)
- Happy (4 pupils)
- Going to make new friends (4 pupils)
- Worried (4 pupils)
- No answer (3 pupils)
- Good (2 pupils)
- Nervous (2 pupils)
- Amazing
- Don't know
- Good they can help us
- Great
- Fine but scared to share the playground
- Nervous- might bully
- Fine but worried about smoking and swearing
- Sad and worried
- Don't like the younger children
- Frightened
- Nervous and sad
- Angry and scared
- Angry
- Scared and OK
- Bad
- Don't care
- Don't mind
- Scared- bullying/ smoking/ swearing
- Fine
- Sad- Smoking and swearing

***Is there anything else you would like to see happen instead of what we are planning?***

- No (12 pupils)
- Stay the same (10 pupils)
- Swimming pool (8 pupils)
- Blank/ unclear answer (7 pupils)
- Bigger football pitch (4 pupils)
- Football pitch ( 4 Pupils)
- Bigger playground (3 pupils)
- New schools but separate primary and secondary schools ( 3 pupils)
- Games room (2 pupils)
- Same headteacher (2 pupils)
- Bigger classrooms (2 pupils)
- Bigger dinner hall (2 pupils)
- New classroom (2 pupils)
- New school (2 pupils)
- Join schools together rather than a new school (2 pupils)

- No opinion/ not bothered- going to a different high school- (2 pupils)
- KFC (2 pupils)
- Tablets in new building
- Climbing frame
- Exploring area
- Disco room
- Laser room
- Don't know
- New white boards
- More books
- Tennis table
- Gym
- New toilets
- Not to change the name
- Theatre
- Movie Centre
- Spend money on Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones separately
- Schools stay the same, donate money to charity instead
- Football cage with astro
- Build a new school but separate from Blessed Edward Jones
- New adventure park with slides
- Stop bullying
- Subway and Costa
- Lots of trees

## 8. Pupil Formal Consultation Report

A summary of the pupil consultation sessions have also been produced in a format that is accessible for children and young people. **Include link**

## Appendix D

### Summary of responses received via Letter and Email

Summary of Comments	Proposers Response
<p>Welcome the proposal, a great deal of uncertainty regarding the future of current local Catholic provision, and it is important that this is resolved.</p> <p>Rhyl High School now has fit-for-purpose facilities, the same cannot be said of Blessed Edward Jones High School.</p> <p>A positive future for Rhyl and the wider area depends on educational quality and choice. The proposals for this development would be innovative and bring the potential to raise standards and expectations. They would also assist in the regeneration of the town as a whole and provide facilities which could be made available for general community use.</p>	<p>Points noted.</p>
<p>Excellent idea, the choice of school is important to both parents and child and to be given an option is excellent.</p> <p>Not all children can cope with a vast amount of pupils.</p>	<p>Points noted.</p>
<p>Wholehearted support for the proposed new Catholic school for our children in Rhyl. A positive step by Denbighshire council.</p>	<p>Point noted.</p>
<p>If our jobs are ring fenced will we all have to reapply for our jobs?</p>	<p>At this point we are not able to answer this question, the New Headteacher and Governing body will be tasked with drawing up a new staffing structure for the school, once this is complete they will then determine the process in which people will be matched / appointed to the new posts. There is a possibility that people may have to apply or there is a possibility that staff maybe slotted into posts hence, no application. However, this will not be known until we have a staffing structure in place. Once this is in</p>

	place then all staff will be consulted on the proposed structure and proposed filling / recruitment to posts.
It was mentioned that redundancies were unlikely, however could people's contracts just end at that point if they are not needed for the new structure?	We try to mitigate redundancies where possible and look for alternative solutions prior to making redundancies, we are hopeful that we will not need to make redundancies. However, if the new structure results in not enough posts for all staff then it is possible that staff could be made redundant.
Would everyone would have new contracts and new terms and conditions?	Yes, however, the terms and conditions are very generic, ie teachers terms and conditions or support staff NJC terms and conditions.
Could our hours and pay be affected e.g a teacher being moved down a payscale?	On assumption that the DCC Pay Policy applies then if a teacher is on a certain pay point now then I would not see this going down. There is the possibility that teachers who are in receipt of additional payment that this payment may stop.

## APPENDIX E

### Summary of responses via the Formal Consultation Response Form

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

	<b>Total</b>
Yes	95
No	5
No answer	0
	100

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

<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pupil	4
Parent	38
Staff Member	29
Community Member	14
School Governor	6
Other	7
Parent/ Governor	2
	100

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

<b>Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School (Ysgol Mair)	21
Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School	64
Both St. Mary's and Blessed Edward Jones	7
Other	2
Ysgol Bryn Hedydd	1
Ysgol Llywelyn	1
St. Brigids	1
None/ skipped question	3

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

Type	Total
Impact on education	62
Impact on local community	17
Ticked both- Impact on education and local community	17
<b>Total</b>	96
Issues raised under "Other" heading (respondents could detail more than one "other")	
Other: Will ensure a sustainable faith/ church option for parents.	10
Other: Proposal will offer a diverse choice for parents.	6
Other: Advantages of the 3-16 model.	5
Other: New school will boost everyone's confidence and provide an environment befitting of our young people.	4
Other: Much needed improved facilities which will provide a positive learning environment.	3
Other: Both schools struggle with old buildings, maintenance and lack of resources/ facilities.	3
Other: Blessed Edward Jones building is tired, investment will give pupils a purpose and pride.	2
Other: Children deserve a building fit for purpose and this is moving with the times.	1
Other: Much needed investment	1
Other: Groups that aim to indoctrinate children have no place in our education system.	1
Other: Good variety of teachers.	1
Other: Better facilities will probably make behaviour better and attendance will improve.	1
Other: Not sure combining the 2 schools is the best idea.	1
Other: If this does not go ahead secondary Catholic education in Rhyl would cease, the nearing school is full therefore many pupils would have to travel outside their local area.	1
Other: Faith based school gives pupils a better start.	1
Other: Quality of education paramount- severe issues currently with both buildings and capacity to deliver a first rate education.	1
Other: Fully understand parents opting for alternative school- if whilst making choices they visit a new state of	1

the art school and then a school with poor facilities, which impacts on the curriculum.	
Other: Both parents and pupils should not have to compromise and Catholic families should have the ability to have a first class education within the Catholic ethos.	1
Other: Both schools would benefit (educational wise) from new buildings, new uniforms and a new headmaster.	1
Other: Our children deserve a good education and to have it with the Catholic ethos would be all the more precious.	1
Other: Small community with a family atmosphere is very important to the children who attend the Primary school as many of the children come from homes that are not successful families. In a larger organisation that atmosphere will be lost.	1

**Question 5:** If you have any alternative options to the current proposal that you would like Denbighshire County Council and the Diocese of Wrexham to consider:

<b>Alternative options suggested</b>	<b>Proposers response</b>
Upgrade the existing two schools.	<p>The Local Authority believe that this option is not sustainable for the future of Catholic education in Denbighshire.</p> <p>In terms of the secondary offer the school would be too big and therefore surplus places would remain. The suggestion would mean that the 2 schools would not become one and therefore keep separate governing bodies, which would mean that the advantages around shared governance would not be realised.</p>
Secular schools are needed not theist bases discriminatory establishments. Over 56% of people in Wales have no religious affiliation. This type of school has no place in the state education in the 21st century.	Both schools are under the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham now and this proposal will not change this.
The needs of the primary school children are being lost in the needs of the secondary pupils, therefore I feel that the two schools need to remain as separate organisations even if the management and governors are combined.	<p>The Local Authority and the Diocese have worked closely with both schools' governing bodies in moving the proposal forward. Both governing bodies support the proposal and realise that this is an opportunity that will benefit all pupils.</p> <p>The proposal will deliver an improved learning environment for primary aged pupils and the 3-</p>

	<p>16 vision will remove the transition point between primary and secondary education which can have negative consequences for children.</p> <p>Pupils and staff at both schools have been consulted with and this will continue when a contractor is appointed to look at the design of the new school.</p> <p>The new Temporary Governing Body for the new school, when established, will be made up of current governors from both schools ensuring that both schools are represented equally.</p>
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**Question 6:** If the Proposal is implemented would you send your child/children to the new 3-16 school or would you choose another school? If you would choose another school, which one and why?

Type	Total
The New 3-16 School	49
Skipped question, N/A or unsure	39
Other- see points below	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>
Other:	
Very unknown at the moment.	1
I live out of County but if I did live in Rhyl I would send them.	1
I would consider it.	1
I hope my grandchildren will attend.	1
No- I want my child to be in a primary school not a huge place.	1
No child should be offered by the state system a place in a school that aimed to promote a special interest point of view, is discriminatory and not inclusive of all people in the local community.	1
I would only send my daughter to the new school, if the current teachers were reassessed and new teachers brought in to replace the obvious teachers that are not up to the standard to bring the high school into a much better standard. My elder daughter went to Blessed Edward Jones and could have performed to a much higher level if the teachers were consistent and encouraging, also most of the teachers in the high school currently blatantly talk badly about the current head teacher and seem not to care about the while school in general. Major	1



changes need to be made in regards to the teaching standards before I will consider the new school for my daughter.	
Decision would be based on standard of education, discipline and behaviour policies that would be on offer.	1
My children are above school age but I wish to see the continued provision of good faith base education in the county.	1
I have no children but would choose this school before others because it proposes education with a universal story of meaning around which community can form and in which values can be debated and developed, especially those of care for the universe. Religion is not sidelined or privatised, but debated openly and integrally.	1
I would encourage parents to send their children to this new school, my own children went to Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones and both did very well.	1
I would recommend all parents in Denbighshire who are seeking a Church School for their child's education to send their child to the new school.	1
Yes I would send my child to the new school and think that the 3-16 option is a good one especially as it would minimise the impact of moving from primary to secondary education. However, by the time it is built, my child would be in the last year of education so the benefits would not be realised for her.	1
I personally would have to seek the nearest Catholic Primary school for 3 to 11 and then look at Secondary education.	1

**Question 7:** Please let us have any comments, positive or negative, that you would like to make about the Proposals:

*These responses have been grouped into themes below alongside a response or point of clarification from the local authority.*

<b>Summary of Comments</b>
<b>3-16 Model: 12 Respondents raised</b>
Ease the transition for children going to primary to secondary, establish a more nurturing environment, curriculum can be designed and taught throughout all of the school years and teachers will get to know the pupils throughout their school life. Enhance career development for staff at both schools. Fantastic idea, not unusual because the 2 schools are so close in proximity and joint working already. Brilliant opportunity for local community and school to be the first 3-16 Catholic school in Wales.

This would provide opportunity to have a more efficient and effective senior and middle leadership structure and administrative and facilities support structure along with more effective use of other resources.

Useful for teachers in the secondary phase to have a clear understanding of literacy and numeracy, the pedagogical approaches that work in the primary phase.

3-16 education is superior, management is better, more streamlined and resources shared. Huge loss if either school had to close- this model appears to be the most economically viable at this present time.

This will enable all good practice at both schools to be further developed and enhanced. As the curriculum continues to develop, staff at the new school will be perfectly placed to research, plan and respond to new challenges and opportunities that are likely to feature nationally over the next 3-15 years.

**RESPONSE:**

We believe that the 3-16 model has many advantages for pupils and staff as detailed in the Formal Consultation report and both proposers strongly support the vision of a through-school.

**New facilities needed:  
13 Respondents raised**

Children and staff at Ysgol Mair deserve a new modern school and new facilities. Both schools will benefit from the new build. More variety of equipment on the playground. Pupils deserve up to date facilities. Blessed Edward Jones dire state of repair. Buildings are showing their age and require a considerable amount of money to keep them safe and usable. Secondary school poorly designed and despite the school being an inclusive, caring faith school this is not reflected in its design. Major accessibility issues. Facilities not fit for purpose.

This proposal will provide better educational provision with 'cutting edge' resources and with that, every possible chance and opportunity to achieve all that they are capable of in all areas of personal development and learning.

As the proposed arrangement for the senior section is based on 4 forms of entry, all whole school facilities (school hall, dining areas, toilet facilities, social and circulatory spaces, recreation areas) and specialist teaching spaces - numbers and sizes- should allow for a possible intake of 120 per year as a successful, re-invigorated school with a 4 form organisation will attract full classes of 30 pupils per class.

**RESPONSE:**

Both schools have a significant maintenance backlog and we realise that both school buildings need investment to bring them into a satisfactory standard reflective of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century school. The value of this outstanding maintenance works for St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair is estimated by DCC as £402,429 and for the Blessed Edward Jones site current estimate by DCC is £1,334,802. These costs represent the minimum amount of work required to maintain the current facilities and would not enhance the learning environment.

In regards to the new build it will be designed to ensure that Building Bulletin 98: BB98 (Framework for secondary school projects) and Building Bulletin 99: BB99 (Framework for primary school) requirements are met.

In terms of the size of the secondary section the proposal states that it will be for a minimum of 500 and considerations around increasing this number will be taken into account during the design stage.

**Catholic education in Denbighshire:  
13 Respondents raised**

New school would offer a brighter future and reinvigorate faith education in Rhyl and North Denbighshire, new school essential for both schools to restore faith education in the primary and secondary sector. Important to have access to faith based education. Even though the new school will be 'Catholic' needs to be made clear that the school welcomes all.

For future generations and to make sure Catholic education keeps up with our educational needs.

Very positive initiative for Catholic education.

Fantastic opportunity to improve the provision of Catholic education.

Will provide a high quality Church option at the end of Year 6 for other children in Denbighshire. Unique opportunity to provide an educational provision that can not only be a 'beacon' for Catholic Education but also for educational provision as a whole within Denbighshire and across Wales. Vitally important and essential to monitor and manage the Admissions process to the proposed new Catholic school to ensure that at all times the school itself retains its distinctive Catholic nature and ethos. If the new school goes ahead then the links with the local parishes need to be strengthened so that they support the school in this new venture. It will enable education to be given in a Christian environment, and go from strength to strength.

The development of a new Catholic model in North Denbighshire will improve and enhance provision for education and we would support this proposal. However, the Diocese of St Asaph has nine feeder primary schools in Denbighshire and still feels that the demand for Anglican secondary provision is strong. We would welcome the opportunity to develop this provision in partnership in the future.

**RESPONSE:**

The Local Authority and the Diocese believe that this proposal offers a sustainable future for Catholic education in Denbighshire.

In regards to admissions the Admissions policy will be drafted by the Temporary Governing Body and the school will be in charge of its own admissions.

Comments regarding Anglican provision is noted.

**Supporting the Proposal:  
22 Respondents raised**

Positive proposal that pupils and parents could only dream of previously.

Always looked on the 2 schools as joined as they share the same faith, ethos and values- this proposal will only strengthen these links for the benefits of the pupils, families and parish. Much needed, very supportive, overdue and hope it goes ahead. Strongly support this proposal. Excellent proposal. Exciting.

Badly needed, long journey getting here, need to grab with both hands and make this a reality. Needs to go ahead.

Fantastic opportunity for Educators, education and the young people of Rhyl- has my fullest support. Keen to see come to fruition. Fully support the project.

Fantastic plan, it's wonderful, area needs investment. Wonderful opportunity to create and be part of something really special that everyone can be proud of.

No negative comments what so ever.

The proposal is an exciting opportunity for Rhyl and surrounding areas. The proposed school is on an existing school site so there would be no additional transport costs. The provision of a new school in Rhyl will provide the local community with job & training opportunities.

**RESPONSE:**

Points noted.

**Concerns over Blessed Edward Jones:**

**2 Respondents raised**

Blessed Edward Jones currently struggling, current status worrying, as a catholic family always intended on sending them to Blessed Edward Jones however now as a result of the new Rhyl High school doing well unsure now.

High number of available spaces and the financial impact of low pupil numbers is impacting on range of subjects that can be offered. Reduced subject options makes the school less attractive and with a new modern secondary school nearby it is hard to see how the situation can be improved. Impact on the senior and middle leadership at both schools, with both schools struggling to find an affordable model.

**RESPONSE:**

The Local Authority are aware of the impact that the new build at Rhyl High has had on numbers at Blessed Edward Jones. Both the governing bodies at St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edward Jones realise that to sustain the Catholic offer they need to be innovative and the 3-16 model offers a different choice for parents.

It will be down to both schools to get the message into the local community and further afield in terms of marketing the new school and getting people behind it now, during the transition period and beyond. Also work will need to be done to ensure that the community know that pupils can enter at Year 7 from other primary schools in the area.

**Concerns from staff:**

**5 Respondents raised**

Staff at Ysgol Mair do a fantastic job, hope that their future is considered thoroughly, excellent members of staff need to continue with the children on their journey into the new school.

Staff need to be kept informed of developments- more clarity and transparency at all stages to all stakeholders involved is imperative. Concern that the Temporary Governing Body may decide to make staff reapply for their current positions. Important that staff members can input into the design in order that design errors can be avoided.

Needs of the primary school are being lost in the needs of the secondary school, if this is happening at the initial planning stages then when or if the two school combines there will no voice for the primary section and after all the primary years represents the bulk of the school years that a child spends in statutory education. If the proposed new school goes ahead there needs to be a clear focus on the admission policy being robust so that the distinct nature of a Catholic school is not lost and watered down by the need to increase

numbers in the secondary section. If the new school goes ahead there must be an equal voice for both schools and all arrangements, plans etc must be shared at the same time. No one person or school should be allowed to dominate the proceedings. All meetings should involve representatives from both schools.

**RESPONSE:**

Both school staff and governing bodies have been included in discussions during the consultation period and all have been invited to ask questions and give comments. Both schools will be involved in design meetings and we will hold consultation events around the design with staff, pupils and the community.

The Temporary Governing Body will form from the 2 existing governing bodies with an equal share coming from each current school. This will be a brand new school encompassing both the primary school St. Marys/ Ysgol Mair and the secondary school Blessed Edward Jones.

**Concerns once building is built:**

**1 Respondents raised**

The Council need to maintain the new building, they do not have a good history of maintaining buildings- a plan needs to be put in place.

**RESPONSE:**

As the new school will be Voluntary Aided and under the Diocese of Wrexham a maintenance plan will have to be drawn up between the Local Authority and the Diocese of Wrexham which clearly outlines who will be responsible for what in terms of the building and its maintenance.

**Community:**

**2 Respondents raised**

A loss of both schools would be detrimental to the wellbeing of so many young people, both provide a nourishing community for myself and many others, surrounded by faith and a tight knit community.

Could have a school that opens up to the community of an evening to rent out for several different classes, clubs etc.

**RESPONSE:**

Community use of the school will be discussed in more detail at the design stage.

**Younger pupils alongside older ones:**

**3 Respondents raised**

People commenting about concerns of 3 year olds be with 15 year olds, upsetting as people for years have been sending children to the non-convent in the Vale and their age groups is 3-18. Be nice for siblings to be in the same school.

Consider the influence teens may have when around younger children.

**RESPONSE:**

The 3-16 model can work extremely well when the school is well organised and the school day planned effectively.

There will be segregation between the Key phases. The ethos that can be created with a 3-16 school is one of caring and nurturing and can be positive for all age groups.

There may be phasing of the school day with different start times, lunchtimes and finish times for different year groups- this will be agreed by the Temporary Governing Body.

**Wider catchment:**

**1 Respondents raised**

Good for Rhyl but also wider parishes of Abergele, Prestatyn, St.Asaph and Denbigh.

**RESPONSE:**

The school will be in Rhyl but will be accessed by other communities particularly those who have Catholic primary schools.

**Parking and Traffic congestion:**

**4 Respondents raised**

Major problem currently especially around St. Margaret's Drive, entrance needs to be on Cefndy road only. Concerned as to where the entrance would be.  
Provision for parking, collection and drop off points.

**RESPONSE:**

During the design process DCC's Highways department will be involved in ensuring the plans are safe. Considerations will be given in regards to the structure of the school day and how that is planned as well as the impact on neighbouring streets.

It is hoped that the new school will improve the highways situation, not make things worse.

**Disruption caused by building works:**

**2 Respondents raised**

Concerns around how the new building will be achieved and how much disruption this will cause to pupils.

Building work, noise and disruption will be inevitable but hopefully with DCCs experience of new school builds this will be kept to a minimum and with the health and safety of pupils, staff and the local community at a priority.

**RESPONSE:**

In terms of the build the contractor would work closely with both schools to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and staff is considered as a high priority through the build process. Preliminary discussions with contractors have taken place and it is clear there will need to be a clear and well managed plan to ensure that disruption to pupils learning is kept to a minimum.

**Playing field at Ffordd Derwen:**

**1 Respondent raised**

Denbighshire County - could have their first athletics track which would allow our children/adults to access athletics clubs. This will also allow us as a county not to have to travel to Deeside or Eirias park in order to use an athletics track.

**RESPONSE:**

It is important even at this early stage to manage expectations. Our aim is to make the best possible use of the space on site and retaining the offsite provision. Consideration will be given to improving the accessibility of this.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **Estyn Response**

#### **Estyn response to Denbighshire County Council's proposal for a new 3-16 Catholic School in Rhyl.**

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.

#### **Summary / Conclusion**

The proposer has suitably outlined the benefits and potential disadvantages of the proposal to close St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and to open a new 3 to 16 catholic school on the site of the two predecessor schools. 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 proposal is to close St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and to open a new 3 to 16 catholic school on the existing shared site. The proposal will increase the capacity of the primary phase from 378 pupils to 420 pupils

and provide at least 500 secondary phase places. The proposal also includes a commitment to continue non-maintained provision on the site.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposal and has outlined the benefits they attribute to all through schooling. The proposer has appropriately considered the relative advantages and disadvantages of the proposal when compared with the status quo. For example, it has clearly demonstrated that the current buildings are in poor condition and that facilities at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School do not allow for a wide enough curriculum offer. However, the proposer has demonstrated that projected numbers by 2021 will still leave the school with over 300 surplus places.

The proposal outlines projected deficit budgets for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School at the end of the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years. The proposer has not considered well enough how the new school will be supported financially in its first few years of operation as low cohorts move, in particular, through the secondary phase of the school.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact on other schools in the area that may be affected by the proposals. It has outlined how the new school could offer places to pupils in currently over-subscribed primary schools. The proposer has demonstrated appropriately that pupil numbers in Rhyl High School are projected to rise and that there may be insufficient capacity for the school to accommodate pupils from Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School should Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School cease to provide secondary education.

The proposer has considered the impact of the proposal on learner travel arrangements. It intends to continue to support home to school travel in line with the council's home to school transport policy. The proposer has completed an initial equality impact assessment that concluded that the proposal would not adversely affect a particular group in society. The proposer also considers the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language and reasonably concludes that there will be no negative impact on the Welsh language or Welsh medium provision in the area.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposer has provided tables of performance data for the end of Foundation Phase, key stage 2 and key stage 4. The tables provide information of the schools' performance against the average for the family of schools, the local authority and Wales. However, there is little analysis of the information provided in the tables. The proposer does not provide data on pupil performance at the end of key stage 3. The provider considers appropriately that there should be no adverse effect on the progress and wellbeing of pupils with additional learning needs. For the past three years, the local consortium has placed St Mary's Catholic Primary School in the amber colour coded support category that indicates that the school is in need of improvement. The local consortium placed Blessed Edward Jones in the amber colour coded support category in 2014 but in the red colour coded support category for the past two years. This indicates that the school is in need of intensive support and improvement.



The proposer also appropriately considered the most recent Estyn and Section 50 inspection outcomes for both schools. St Mary's Catholic Primary school was inspected by Estyn in 2016 and was judged as adequate in its current performance and for its prospects for improvement. The school was placed in the follow-up category of requiring Estyn Monitoring. Estyn will revisit the school in 2017 to inspect the progress the school has made against its recommendations for improvement. Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School was last inspected in 2012 and was judged as good in its current performance and for its prospects for improvement

The proposer has suitably outlined that the proposal will likely enhance the quality of teaching and learning. The proposer clearly demonstrates that the new building will provide a better learning environment for all pupils. For example, it outlines how the new building and improved outside facilities will enable the school to provide better opportunities for physical education, design technology and information and communication technology (ICT). The proposer also details fittingly how the new facilities will better allow the school to offer a more varied and appropriate curriculum at key stage 4. The proposer also establishes the benefits of having shared area such as the chapel and dining area and the advantages of aiding transition between key phases and stages of education.