

New build 3-16 Catholic school in Rhyl

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	127
Brief description:	The impact of a new 3-16 Catholic school in Rhyl, this involves School reorganisation proposal of amalgamating Ysgol Mair/ St.Mary's Catholic primary school and Blessed Edward Jones Catholic high school. The new school will be built on the current site of both schools who are currently neighbours.
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Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Rhyl,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could some small changes in your thinking produce a better result?

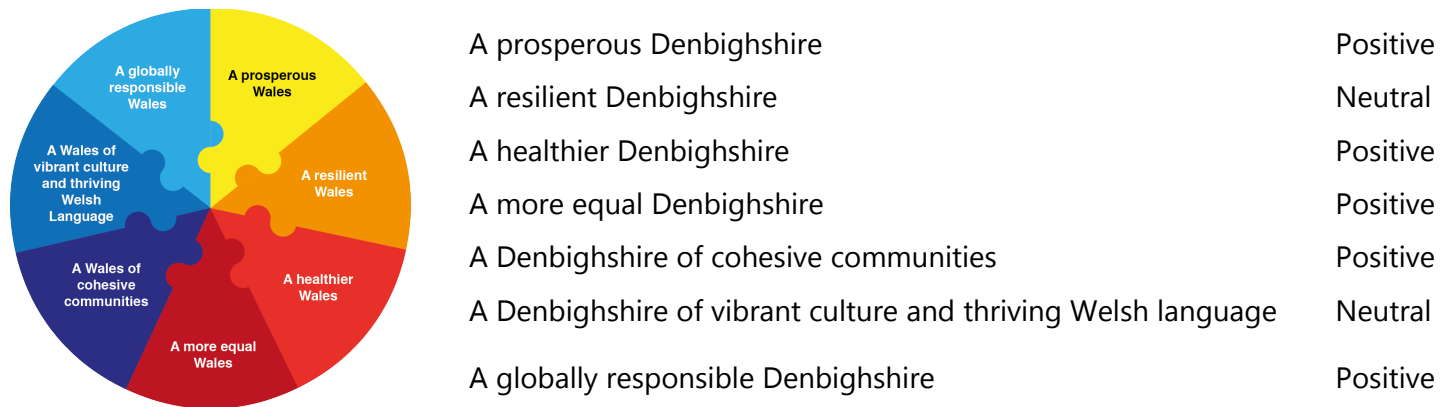
(3 out of 4 stars)



Actual score: 20/ 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



Main conclusions

As the business case for the proposal develops there will be requirement for an on-going assessment process to ensure that potential impacts are appropriately addressed.

As part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme Band A proposals that were submitted to the Welsh Government in 2010 there was a commitment and financial allocation for investment in a Joint Faith Secondary Provision. Over the last six years there has been extensive discussions with partners from the Diocese of Wrexham and from the St Asaph Church in Wales Diocese. Unfortunately the vision of a shared faith school has not been agreed and therefore we could not move forward, as a consequence this proposal has been developed in partnership with the Diocese of Wrexham.

The need for investment is enhanced by the condition of the schools especially Blessed Edward Jones. There will be further work around the build and design of the new school which will need to be fed into this assessment as the process moves forward. This investment links with the Council's commitment to review school provision in the County to:

make sure our education provision is of a high quality and is sustainable in the long term, improve the quality of school building and facilities, provide the right number of school places, of the right type, in the right locations. The size of the school will reflect existing demand now and in the future. The school will not be sized too big as this could have a detrimental impact on surrounding schools in the area.

The School Development Committee will continue to provide the financial support for the proposed Joint Faith Secondary Provision.

The School Re-organisation process will be running alongside the design phase of the project. We are working closely with the Diocese and both chairs of governors to ensure they take a lead on this element of the project as significant opposition would put the project at risk. Both sets of governors are supportive of the proposal and we hope their enthusiasm will encourage parents to respond to the consultation positively. The aim is for the Statutory process around the school reorganisation to be completed by October 2017 in order that site mobilisation can commence.

UPDATED- May 2016- The formal consultation period regarding this proposal has now closed. The Formal Consultation report details peoples responses. Overall 106 people responded- 98 for the proposal, 5 against and 3 did not state either way. In regards to the 5 responses against the proposal, details are as follows:

1. Against the little children mixing with the older ones.
2. Against church education.
3. Did not give any further details.
4. Not sure this was the correct way forward, felt upgrading the 2 schools was a better option.
5. Schools need to remain separate even if management and governance were combined.

The report will be presented to Cabinet and they will decide if we can move forward with publishing the Statutory Notice. The Diocese of Wrexham have noted the findings of the consultation and are in full support in moving forward to the publication of the Statutory Notice for the proposal.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact:	Positive
Justification for Impact:	The new build will give pupils access to improved facilities, opportunities created during the construction phase and the finished product will be a legacy for the community and future generations in the area. This option will ensure a sustainable education provision for the future which in turn means jobs are secure.

Positive consequences identified:

Reduce the carbon footprint as 2 schools become 1 in a new building which will employ new technologies.
Design will follow BREEAM.
Building phase of the project will produce community benefits- use of local labour.
New provision will secure jobs at the school, better facilities will increase staff morale and improve staff retention.
During the build apprenticeship opportunities, work placements.
Better facilities for pupils will increase learning opportunities.
Improved ICT infrastructure. Improved highways.
Potential scope for improved wrap around care.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Larger footprint of the building could increase costs.
The School re-organisation process will result in 2 schools becoming 1, meaning there will be 1 head, 1 senior management team and 1 governing body. There maybe uncertainty for staff, although jobs will be ring-fenced for staff from both schools.

Mitigating actions:

Ensure all relevant staff are trained on new systems in the build in order to ensure they are being used efficiently.
Ensure all staff are supported by the County's HR department in terms of the school reorganisation.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact:	Neutral
Justification for Impact:	The site of the new building will be on the existing school/s site. The site is quite urban and therefore we do not see major disruption to the eco system.

Positive consequences identified:

Reduction of the carbon footprint will have a positive impact on the environment.
If required new habitat areas would be developed within the school grounds.
Contractor will have a waste management plan.
Building will be designed to minimise energy costs. Considerations will be made on how the transportation of materials will be delivered to the site, sourcing locally where possible to reduce emissions.
Scope during the construction phase to involve the local community and schools.
The issue of flooding will be examined during the design and planning stages.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

None

Mitigating actions:

Waste management plan requirement and key element of the procurement process. If required the project would include suitable alternatives for local wildlife to inhabit.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact:	Positive
Justification for Impact:	Improved facilities for the school communities and the residents will assist their overall wellbeing.

Positive consequences identified:

Improved facilities and learning environment will improve staff, pupil and community morale. Those pupils who walk to school will still be able to as the new school will be built on the current site.

The school will have a dedicated dining area for all pupils.

Improved access to sporting facilities for the local community for example if the new school had a 3G/ 4G pitch this could be utilised by other clubs outside of school hours.

Improved learning environment will improve staff, pupil and community morale. The transition period between every key stage can be better facilitated for the benefit of all pupils and help to avoid the traditional dip in achievement between Years 6 and 7. Children and parents will establish a good strong relationship with the school as pupil's progress through the key stages of their education. This will help create a positive and nurturing environment for all pupils at the school and will result in siblings being in the same school no matter what their age.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

During the build phase access to the schools maybe disrupted, although alternatives will be made available such as alternative drop off points and parking.

Disruption for residents living near the site during the construction of the new school and demolition of the old schools.

Pupils are concerned that bullying may increase due to the 3-16 model.

Mitigating actions:

Ensure all residents are informed and kept up to date in regards to build progress by the contractor.

Any disruption to pickup/ drop off facilities and parking will be mitigated by offering alternatives. This will involve working closely with both schools and to ensure parents are clearly communicated any changes clearly and efficiently.

The 3-16 model can work extremely well when the school is well organised and the school day planned effectively- varied start and finish times for different key stages.

In regards to bullying concerns expressed by pupils it is important to remember that 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.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact:	Positive
Justification for Impact:	The school building will have 21st Century facilities to deliver the curriculum now and in the future. By providing facilities that will support better teaching and learning environments we are improving the educational offer in the area and will continue to maintain and improve pupil attainment and achievement at the same time.

Positive consequences identified:

Maintaining access to church education through primary and secondary education.

The facilities at the new school will be designed in consultation with DCC's ALN education officers, the staff and pupils concerned. English is not the first language of a number of pupils at both schools- at Ysgol Mair/ St.Mary's 8.2% of pupils have Polish as their first language and 7.5% Tagalog/ Filipino. At Blessed Edward Jones there is currently 8.3% pupils who have Tagalog/ Filipino as their first language. (Figures based on January 2016 PLASC)

School building will be compliant with the Equalities Act.

Improved facilities for one of the most deprived wards in Rhyl.

By improving the educational offer through the new school the performance of pupils could improve.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Trying to engage with consultees where English is not their first language.

School uniform is likely to change and parents will need to buy this.

Mitigating actions:

Both schools have a high level of pupils who have a first language other than English, discussions with both schools and the EAL Officer will need to be had to ensure that during the disruption and eventual transition that these pupils are supported appropriately. The new build will also need to take into account this need in terms of teaching space and design and how this could be used to benefit these pupils.

The Council also recognise that the proposal would result in a change in learning environment for all pupils should it be implemented. This maybe particularly challenging for pupils with ALN. The Council would work closely with parents and pupils during the transition period. Support that pupils with ALN currently receive would be replicated within the new learning environment. engaging with parents and families.

In regards to the possibility that the new school will have a new uniform, 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.

The formal consultation document stated that the document is available in other languages on request.

The proposers wrote a short Frequently Asked Question document which was available in English, Welsh, Polish and Tagalog and explained the proposal in a short concise manner. A number of hard copies of all versions of the document were left at Blessed Edward Jones and St.Mary's/ Ysgol Mair. .

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact:	Positive
Justification for Impact:	The Council are working in partnership with the Diocese of Wrexham and the 2 governing bodies of Ysgol Mair/ St.Mary's and Blessed Edward Jones, who will assist on the school reorganisation side of things in regards to informing staff and parents of the proposal. We need to ensure the proposal is supported by the school community and the wider community. During the build and demolition phases of the project we acknowledge that there will be disruption to local residents and the 2 schools who will remain on site whilst the new build is being developed. However long term the community will have a building it can be proud of and the pupils will have a much improved educational offer. Through the consultation period it was clear that there is wide spread support from the wider community. Staff at both schools indicated a willingness to work even closer with each other and also look to engage with other schools within the Diocesan area.

Positive consequences identified:

The new building will be designed to ensure pupils and staff safety.

Pre-consultation and planning consultation will be undertaken with the community.

Project will improve highways situation at peak school times- drop off areas and the flow of traffic will be looked at during the design phase.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

As the building works are being phased and the 2 schools remaining operational on a live site, the safety of pupils, staff and the community will have to be considered at all stages of the build and demolition.

The site, during the build phase, could be targeted by thieves.

Engaging through the medium of English- could cause difficulties for some families.

Reduced access to the site for local community during construction phase. Noise and disruption through the build and demolition phases.

Mitigating actions:

Working with both schools to ensure disruption to their everyday life is minimised, the contract will include a site constraint plan which will limit when construction traffic can access the site.

Working with the contractors to ensure the site is locked down and secure to reduce the risk of theft from the site.

Working with the contractors to keep the residents informed of developments throughout the phases.

The planning application will require a detailed traffic assessment and travel plan.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact:	Neutral
Justification for Impact:	Both schools are currently classified as Category 5- English medium. The proposed new school will also be English medium.

Positive consequences identified:

Insisting the contractors use bilingual signs and newsletters etc.

Scope for the school facilities to be used for community events and social activities linked to Welsh culture.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

None

Mitigating actions:

None

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact:	Positive
Justification for Impact:	Looking to work with a responsible contractor.

Positive consequences identified:

The procurement option for the project will allow access to local contractors.
Core Community Benefits will be evaluated at tender stage.
Ensure the contractor is a 'Considerate Contractor'.
Potential links with wrap around childcare providers in the area.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

None

Mitigating actions:

None