

Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment

**Proposal to Increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity
from 116 to 220**

March 2022



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Denbighshire County Council (DCC) is carrying out a formal consultation on the proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn' s capacity from 116 to 220. The school will move into a brand new purpose built facility in the town of Denbigh to accommodate the increase.
- 1.2 Should the Local Authority wish to implement the Proposal following the Formal Consultation, such implementation will be subject to Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments.

2. National Context

- 2.1 The Welsh Government School Organisation Code 2013 (revised 2018) requires the proposer to conduct a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment when proposing changes to school organisation.
- 2.2 The School Organisation Code stipulates that proposers need to consider the impact that a proposal may have on local families and the local community, through preparation of a community impact assessment and the effect of the Welsh language through the preparation of a language impact assessment if any school affected provides teaching through the medium of Welsh.

3. Local Context

- 3.1 DCC is committed to modernising education in Denbighshire to ensure all children and young people receive a first class education.
- 3.2 DCC recognises the importance of having modern and fit for purpose buildings that meet the needs of modern day education. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience to make sure that children and young people have the best opportunities available to them and that they are able to reach their full potential.

Community Use of Schools

- 3.3 DCC has a commitment to community focused schools, therefore we will conduct a community impact assessment when considering changes to school organisation.

Promoting Bilingualism

- 3.4 DCC recognises how important bilingualism is in the 21st Century Wales. It is DCC's aspiration that all children and young people leave full time education being competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. This aspiration is in accordance with the Welsh Government's vision for 'A Million Welsh speakers by 2050.'

4. Background

- 4.1 DCC is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the council agreed that modernising education provision was a priority because it recognises the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 4.2 Education provision in the county had to change because improvements in education could not be sustained without changes to the way education was provided.
- 4.3 Consideration has been given to the potential impact on the Welsh Language and on the local communities resulting from the Proposal.

5. Sources of Information

The following sources of information have been used for the purposes of this document:

- Impact Assessment questionnaire undertaken by the head teacher of Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
- PLASC 2021 Data;
- Statistical data stored by Denbighshire County Council;
- 2011 Census Information;
- A draft Welsh in Education plan 2022-2032.

6. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

6.1 School details:

School Name	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn
School Location	4 locations in Denbigh: Primary Site- LL16 3DP Secondary site- LL16 3DR Ty'r Ysgol- LL16 4ST Residential – Gerddi Glasfryn- LL16 4ST
Age Range	3-19
School Category- Community, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled, Special	Special School
Language Medium Category	English Medium

6.2 Number of pupils:

As of September 2021 the school had 136 pupils. The pupil numbers over recent years are illustrated below:

Year	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Pupil Numbers	124	128	140	133	137	137

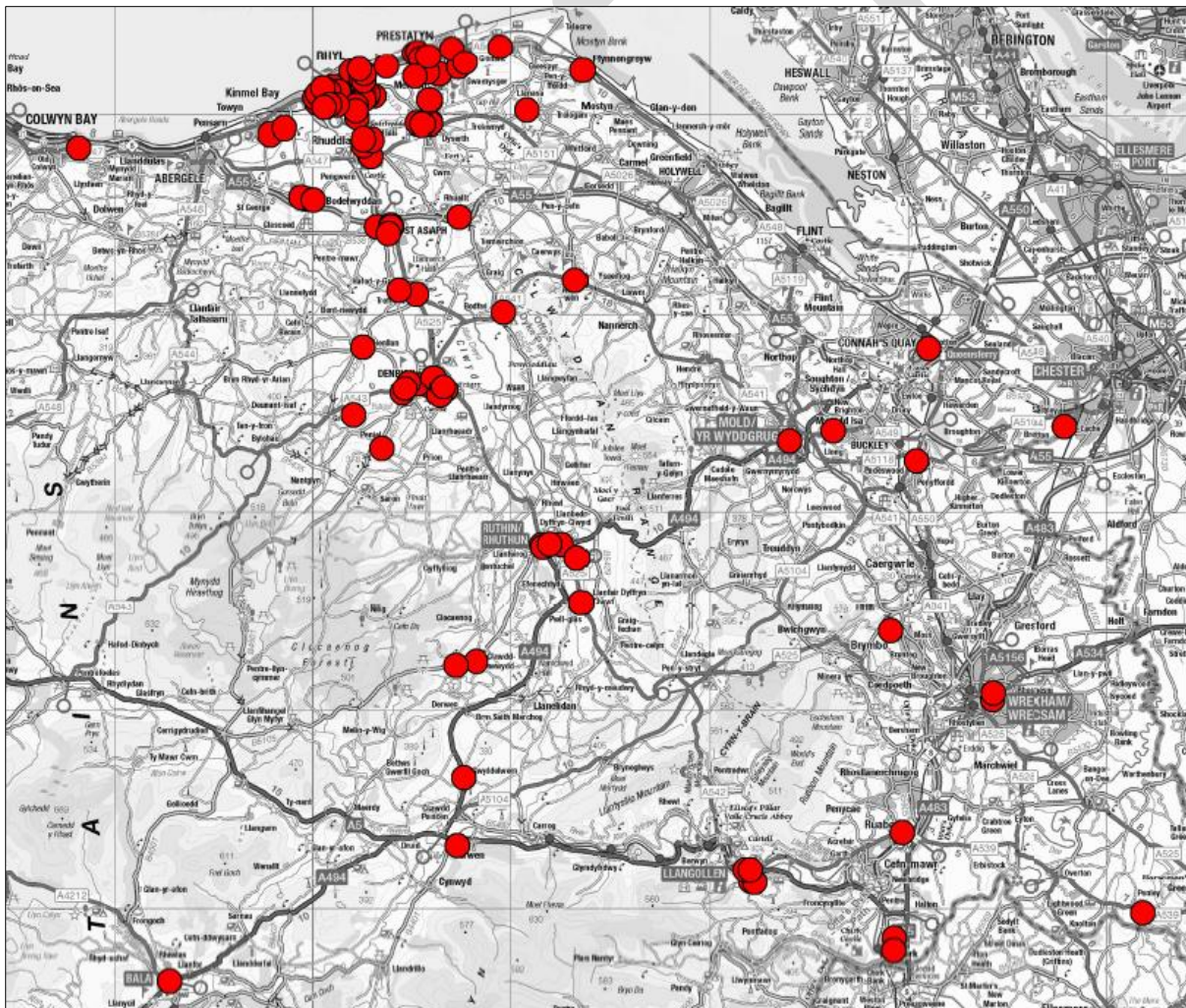
6.3 Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is located across Denbigh. 3 Wards cover Denbigh- Denbigh Central, Denbigh Lower and Denbigh Upper. The new school site will be within the Denbigh Lower ward.

Denbigh Town Council also cover this area.

6.4 Please note that pupils attend special schools from all over the County and from neighbouring authorities:

Map below shows the spread of where pupils are coming from- for the purpose of this exercise we used the Park Street site in Denbigh:

Pupil data from Jan 2022:



Distance	Number of pupils	% of school population
Under 1 mile	6	4.5
1-5 miles	10	7.6

5-10 miles	32	24.2
10-20 miles	69	52.3
Over 20 miles	15	11.4
Total	132	100

6.5 Fluency of pupils at the school

	Full-time
Total Number of Pupils on Roll:	133
Number of Pupils from Welsh speaking homes:	2
Number of Pupils from English speaking homes:	118
Number of Pupils from Bilingual (Welsh & English Parents) homes:	13

Data from Dec 2021

6.6 Governing body details:

Number of Parent Governors:	5
Number of Community Governors*:	3
Total Number of Governors:	15
Number of Welsh speaking Governors:	4
Language in which minutes are recorded	English

6.7 Parent and teacher association

There is a parent and teacher association called Friends of Plas Brondyffryn. They meet once every half term- sometimes more if needed. The meetings take place in English.

6.8 Additional provision

The additional school provision offered out of school hours is a daily breakfast club both at the primary and secondary sites. There are no after school clubs

at present. There is a Summer Holiday Enhancement Programme that the school runs.

6.9 Childcare/ pre-school provision

The school does not have nursery provision.

6.10 Community Facilities

The following community facilities are available in Denbigh outside of the school:

- Denbigh Town Hall
- Eirianfa Community Centre
- Denbigh Rugby Club
- Denbigh Football club
- Denbigh Leisure centre
- Denbigh Bowling Club
- Denbigh Skate park
- Denbigh Tennis club

6.11 Community Activities- School building

No community activities currently take place in the school.

6.12 Community Activities- other

There are a large number of community facilities in the town of Denbigh, which a variety of groups use for a range of community activities.

7. Additional considerations set out in the Code

7.1 There are certain matters set out in the Code which the proposer should consider when assessing the impact of the proposal on the community and language. However, some of them apply only where a school is to be closed and its pupils will have to rely on existing alternative provision. It is not relevant for the purposes of this document to consider:

- a. whether other facilities in the immediate local or wider community will or could be enhanced in the event of closure;
- b. information about the facilities and services provided at any alternative school;
- c. information about the distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school;

- d. how parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported;
- e. information about any wider implications the changes would have on public transport provisions;
- f. information on wider community safety issues;
- g. information about standards in the Welsh language in the school and any alternatives;
- h. information about after school activities which provide additional opportunities to use Welsh in the school and any alternative school;
- i. whether it might be appropriate to provide additional after school facilities at any alternative school to further secure standards in the Welsh language; and
- j. how parents' and pupils' engagement with any alternative school and any specific language enhancement it offers could be supported.

8. Equality Impact Assessment/ Well-being Impact Assessments

- 8.1 As a Council we now undertake Well-being Impact Assessments on proposals. Our Well-being Impact Assessment is an integrated impact assessment and is designed to assess the likely impact of the proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world. The assessment considers impact on: equality, vulnerable groups, the economy, the environment, health, Welsh language and culture, community cohesion and on global issues.
- 8.2 The assessment looks at the sustainability of the proposal and the likely consequences and impact on the proposal. The impact assessment is used more than once, throughout the development of proposals and is continually reviewed and updated.
- 8.3 Please see Appendix A for the Wellbeing Impact Assessment for this proposal.

9. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

- 9.1 This impact assessment is to consider the potential impact on the Welsh language of the Proposal.

Census Data

- 9.2 The following data is taken from the 2011 Census and provides information on the proportion of Welsh speakers within the wards that Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn sites are currently located in.

Ward	Population	Number of Welsh Speakers	Proportion of Welsh Speakers
Denbigh Lower	4,561	1,777	38.9%
Denbigh Upper/ Henllan	3,165	998	31.5%

Risk Assessment

9.4 In order to assess the potential impact on the Welsh language consideration has been given to the following areas (as set out in the table below):

- Language of the school;
- Access to Welsh Medium education;
- Education Provision / Educational standards;
- Access to non-statutory provision;
- Access to pre / after school activities;
- Use of Welsh within the community.

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
Language of the school	<p>Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is an English medium school. The school are committed to promoting the Welsh language as an integrated part of school life.</p> <p>Following the proposal the school will remain an English medium school.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Access to Welsh Medium education	<p>The majority of the pupils come from homes where English is the first language; however the school promotes an ethos where Welsh culture and heritage is supported and celebrated.</p> <p>A proportion of the staff are first language Welsh speakers and therefore Welsh is used as a language of communication throughout the school.</p> <p>Governors and SLT are committed to developing the Welsh language skills of all</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A

	<p>the staff and provide training to achieve this. Welsh is not used as a language of instruction in any Key Stage or subject, but the school welcomes pupils whose first language is Welsh and provides the necessary resources for them to access the whole curriculum through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The proposal would not change the access to Welsh medium education.</p>			
Education Provision / Educational standards	<p>The proposal will improve the facilities for the school as well as bringing all staff and pupils onto the same site.</p> <p>Additional staff will be employed to accommodate for the increase in capacity when required.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Non-statutory provision	<p>The governors and management of the school are seeking to significantly raise the profile of the school in the local community and to ensure that the whole community is able to benefit from the facilities a new school build would offer.</p> <p>The inclusion of a 'community cafe in the new build plans is one example the school are committed to extending this to the sports facilities (muga), the large indoor spaces (main and secondary hall), conferencing facilities and specialist teaching and learning facilities.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Pre/After school activities	<p>The school would continue to have a breakfast club.</p> <p>The proposal may see an increase in numbers attending the provision, which the school will accommodate.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

Use of Welsh within the communities	Ysgol Plas Brondyffyn is an English medium school, which would continue should the proposal be approved, accordingly this would have a neutral impact on the use of Welsh within the community.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
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Overview- Potential initial impact on Welsh Language

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact	Current Proposal	3	3	0
	Residual Impact	0	0	0

10. Summary of Potential Impact on the Welsh Language

- 10.1 It should be noted that attempting to gauge the potential impact from the proposal on the Welsh language is a difficult undertaking.
- 10.2 The main positives emerging from the impact are on the educational provision. Providing an improved educational provision represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh language.
- 10.3 Conclusion: Overall the proposal would not have a negative impact on the Welsh language.

11. Community Impact Assessment

- 11.1 This impact assessment is to consider the potential impact on families and the local community of the Proposal.
- 11.2 In order to assess the potential impact on families and the local community consideration has been given to the following areas:
- School Designation;
 - School links to the local community;
 - Impact on neighbouring schools;
 - Impact on parents and families;
 - Travelling Implications for pupils/parents;

- Impact on community activities;
- Impact on community facilities;
- Impact on community demographics

Impact Criteria	Comments	Impact (positive, neutral or negative)	Measures to reduce negative impact	Residual Impact
School Designation	The school is currently categorised as a Special school and will continue to be Special if the proposal is taken forward.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
School links to the community	The school has good links within the community it currently serves and these links will be maintained. The school have inspirations that the new building can also be utilised by the community after school hours.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Impact on neighbouring schools	As this is a Special school catering for pupils with ASC the impact on neighbouring schools is not a consideration due to the specialist nature of the school. There is a growing demand for places within the School, resulting in the Local Authority having to operate a waiting list for some year groups within the school.	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A
Impact on pupils	The current proposal will have a positive impact on pupils through an improved education provision. Pupils will have facilities fit for the 21 st Century and an environment that will inspire and motivate them in their learning. Having all pupils and staff on one site will be beneficial and ensure transition between keystages can be better facilitated.	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A

Impact on parents and families	<p>There should be no major impact on parents and families due to the proposal.</p> <p>The additional pupil places will support families whose child needs this specialist place.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Travelling implications for pupils/parents	<p>The new building will still be in Denbigh and therefore travel time will remain the same. The proposed location is more central and better links with public transport.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Impact on community activities	<p>Currently no community activities take place at any of the school sites.</p> <p>The school have an aspiration that the new build will be accessible to community use out of hours.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Impact on community facilities	<p>The inspiration is for the new build to be accessible for community use out of hours, this will give the community of Denbigh more options and the school will need to look at any gaps they could potential fill in terms of community use.</p>	POSITIVE	N/A	N/A
Impact on community demographics	<p>There should be no impact on community demographics due to the proposal.</p> <p>The proposed increase is to accommodate an increase in pupils who require a place in ASC school.</p>	NEUTRAL	N/A	N/A

Overview- Potential initial impact on families and the local community

		Positive	Neutral	Negative
Overall Impact	Current Proposal	6	4	0
	Residual Impact	0	0	0

12 Summary of Potential Impact on families and the local community

- 12.1 It should be noted that attempting to ascertain the potential impact from school organisation on families and the local community is a difficult undertaking.
- 12.2 The school are already over their capacity and have a waiting list for some year groups. This demand for these types of places will only increase given the number of learners currently being assessed and currently awaiting assessments. The pandemic has seen delays in learners being assessed, current numbers indicate that there could potentially be 25 additional pupils who will need a place at the school. The impact the pandemic has had on children is yet to be fully realised but it is predicted that there will be an increase of learners being referred and assessed.
- 12.3 Conclusion: The proposal will have a positive impact on pupils, parents and their families. The proposal has considered impact on the local community, along with the demand for places.
- 12.4 The proposal could see a new community facility added to the options for the community of Denbigh.
- 12.5 Throughout the consultation period if there are any justified impacts noted the impact assessment will be reviewed and measures will be considered so that any impact is minimised.