



Modernising Education  
Joint Faith Provision Review  
Informal Consultation Report

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Denbighshire County Council carried out an informal consultation (the **Informal Consultation**) between 6 December 2012 and 29 January 2013 into joint faith based secondary provision in north Denbighshire.
- 1.2. A consultation paper entitled “Case for Change” (**Consultation Paper**) was produced setting out, amongst other things, the current position, options for, and the impact of, change and confirmed the next steps. The Consultation Paper was sent out to the head teachers at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School (**BEJ**) & St Brigid’s School (**SB**), the Bishops and key office holders in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and the Anglican Diocese of St Asaph (**Diocese**) and the trustees of the St Brigid’s Trust (**SB Trust**).
- 1.3. A summary of the Consultation Paper (the **Summary Consultation Paper**) containing a questionnaire (the **Questionnaire**) was sent to the teachers, staff members and parents of pupils at BEJ and SB. The Summary Consultation Paper constituted an abridged version of the Consultation Paper stated that a proposal to consider what faith based secondary education provision in north Denbighshire might look like in the future, the possibility of joint working between BEJ and SB should be considered and the reasons why this should take place.
- 1.4. The Summary Consultation Paper made it clear that:
  - 1.4.1. No proposals for change were being considered and no changes will take place at that stage;
  - 1.4.2. Any options for change arising through and/or following the Informal Consultation would then have to be considered and discussed by the Diocese, School Trust and DCC;
  - 1.4.3. DCC’s cabinet of elected members (**Cabinet**) would then have to make a decision as to whether any proposals should be given formal consideration;
  - 1.4.4. If Cabinet approved proposals for formal consideration, the process of consultation would again be carried out in accordance with statutory provisions;
  - 1.4.5. Parents could make their views known by attending meetings in January and by completing the Questionnaire.

## 2. Meetings

- 2.1. DCC arranged and held consultation meetings with the following stakeholders at both schools:
  - 2.1.1. Governors;
  - 2.1.2. Teachers;
  - 2.1.3. Parents; and
  - 2.1.4. Pupils.
- 2.2. The meetings all took place in January 2013 and each provided the stakeholders present the opportunity to ask questions and express their views and opinions.
- 2.3. Elin Davies, Learner Voice Champion who works in DCC’s 14 -19 Network conducted the pupil meetings. The tone and content of those meetings was tailored specifically to ensure the pupils were able to understand and engage as fully as possible. For example, ‘ice-breaking’ exercises and interactive activities were used to make the

pupils feel able to participate: as opposed simply to delivering a lecture and asking for any questions. The findings of the Pupil meetings are set out in **Appendix E**.

### **3. Questionnaire and correspondence**

- 3.1. The Questionnaire was designed to elicit information relating to the need for a faith school, attitudes towards travel to school and the factors which influence people in their choice of school. It also provided stakeholders with the opportunity to detail any other issues they wished to raise. The results of the responses to the Questionnaire are set out in **Appendix D**.
- 3.2. DCC also received letters and emails from interested parties relating to the Informal Consultation. The findings have been analysed and are set out in **Appendix A**. Copies of redacted letters from stakeholders who gave consent to their comments being used are set out in **Appendix B** together with an index of the PDF files showing which have been redacted in whole (and will therefore contain no readable information and should be ignored) and in part (and may therefore be read) which is set out in **Appendix C**.

## APPENDIX A

### Issues raised by letter and email during the informal consultation process

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 During the course of the Informal Consultation DCC has received from parents, teachers and other interested parties (**Interested Parties**) letters, emails and additional comments in respect of questions 6 and 8 of the questionnaires and made by petitioners to an online petition set up by the St Brigid's Action Group (as to which see section 4 below). This document analyses the nature of the comments received and sets out the percentage of Interested Parties making those comments.
- 1.2 This document splits the responses and analysis into the following sections:
- Section 2 – Letters and emails;
  - Section 3 – Additional comments in the questionnaire; and
  - Section 4 – Comments made in the online petition.

#### 2. Summary of the points raised in letters and emails

- 2.1 DCC received 116 letters and emails in response to the initial consultation. It should be noted that all of those letters and emails were from Interested Parties who wrote exclusively in respect of St Brigid's (**SB**). No letters or emails were received from Interested Parties from Blessed Edward Jones (**BEJ**).
- 2.2 A total of 75 separate issues were noted. The 10 most frequently raised issues have been summarised and noted below.

No	Description of issue raised	%age of Interested Parties raising this issue
1.	<u>Consultation Process itself (30)</u> Doubt cast over validity of the consultation process: the decision has already been made/the questionnaire is designed to produce a skewed view/inconsistent information/lip service paid to views	53.45
2	<u>Extend the consultation period (16)</u> The consultation period should be extended	45.69
3	<u>Ethos (5)</u>	41.38

	SB has a small, caring, warm, loving family/community atmosphere where everyone knows one another/ teachers know the children by name: ETHOS	
4	<u>Academic achievement (7)</u> SB is Denbighshire's most successful/high performing school with the best exam results/out-performs some private schools	37.07
5.	<u>All through provision (23)</u> The 3 - 19 provision is beneficial as it smooths the stressful transition process/encourages interaction between different age groups/allows children to stay on for 6th form/should be extended by increasing the size of SB	32.76
6.	<u>Calibre of person produced (4)</u> SB produces well mannered, happy, well-disciplined, confident etc. people with good morals who contribute to our community as opposed to being a burden	31.03
7.	<u>Against merger/closure (10)</u> Object to/against SB closing/amalgamating with BEJ/forming a new school	27.59
8.	<u>Quality (1)</u> High quality Education at SB	20.69
9.	<u>Invest in SB (28)</u> SB should have money invested in it to improve buildings (extend, remodel, upgrade) and facilities	20.69
10.	<u>Prepared to travel to the right school (2)</u> Prepared to travel a long distance to go to SB: pay the associated fuel, public transport, uniform and other ancillary costs because it is an excellent school	16.38

**3. Issues raised by virtue of the additional comments section in the responses to the DCC questionnaire**

3.1 A total of 178 completed questionnaires have been received; of that figure, 101 were from SB Interested Parties and the balance of 77 was from BEJ Interested Parties.

3.2 The 10 most frequently raised issues contained in the completed questionnaires in respect of each set of Interested Parties have been summarised and noted below.

**SB respondents**

No	Description of issue raised	&age of Interested Parties raising this issue
1.	<u>Ethos (5)</u> SB has a small, caring, warm, loving family/community atmosphere where everyone knows one another/ teachers know the children by name: ETHOS	50.5
2	<u>Academic achievement (7)</u> SB is Denbighshire's most successful/high performing school with the best exam results/outperforms some private schools	27.72
3	<u>Quality (1)</u> High quality Education at SB	24.75
4	<u>All through provision (23)</u> The 3-19 provision is beneficial as it smooths the stressful transition process/encourages interaction between different age groups/allows children to stay on for 6th form/should be extended by increasing the size of SB	22.77
5.	<u>Prepared to travel to the right school (2)</u> Prepared to travel a long distance to go to SB: pay the associated fuel, public transport, uniform and other ancillary costs because it is an excellent school	20.79
6.	<u>Against merger/closure (10)</u> Object to/against SB closing/amalgamating with BEJ/forming a new school	19.8
7.	<u>Consultation Process itself (30)</u> Doubt cast over validity of the consultation process: the decision has already been made/the	

	questionnaire is designed to produce a skewed view/inconsistent information/lip service paid to views	18.81
8.	<u>Invest in SB (28)</u> SB should have money invested in it to improve buildings (extend, remodel, upgrade) and facilities	15.84
9.	<u>High quality teaching and support (53)</u> Teaching standards and levels of additional support are excellent at SB	14.85
10.	<u>Children enjoy SB (37)</u> Children enjoy being educated at SB and thrive there.	13.86

#### BEJ Respondents

No	Description of issue raised	&age of Interested Parties raising this issue
1.	<u>Proximity to school (56)</u> Being able to walk to school/living close to school is an important consideration	40.26
2	<u>Consultation Process itself (30)</u> Doubt cast over validity of the consultation process: the decision has already been made/the questionnaire is designed to produce a skewed view/inconsistent information/lip service paid to views	6.49
3	<u>New School in Rhyl (86)</u> Any new school must be in Rhyl: because there are more potential pupils in and around the Rhyl area/more children from disadvantaged backgrounds	6.49
4	<u>Small size (87)</u> The small size and family environment is why we chose BEJ	5.19
5.	<u>High quality teaching (89)</u> The teachers are excellent at BEJ	3.9

6.	<u>Won't send children to a new school (25)</u> We will not send our child/ren to any new school[/outside of Denbigh]	2.6
7.	<u>Status quo (31)</u> [SB/]BEJ should be left as it is.	2.6
8.	<u>Plans for change are unsettling for children (40)</u> Discussions re closure and merger/actually moving schools is very unsettling for children (and parents) especially those who are already under pressure of performing and achieving the best possible results.	2.6
9.	<u>Free transport (69)</u> If a new school is built, existing pupils should be entitled to free transport	2.6
10.	<u>Quality (88)</u> BEJ has a good standard of education	2.6

#### 4. Issues raised in the St Brigid's Action Group petition

- 4.1 Interested Parties from SB formed the St Brigid's Action Group (**SBAG**) to consider the Informal Consultation and present a united front in respect of what it perceived to be DCC's intention to close SB and merge it with BEJ. SBAG has created an online petition, which as at 26 February 2013 had 411 electronic signatures.
- 4.2 Many of the petitioners had also left additional comments; the 10 most frequently raised issues contained in the petition have been summarised and noted below.

No	Description of issue raised	&age of Petitioners raising this issue
1.	<u>Against merger/closure (10)</u> Object to/against SB closing/amalgamating with BEJ/forming a new school	100 (by virtue of signing the petition)
2	<u>Save our school (91)</u> Keep SB open/save SB/we'll not let this happen	14.11
3	<u>Ethos (5)</u> SB has a small, caring, warm, loving family/community atmosphere where everyone knows one another/ teachers know the children by name: ETHOS	9.25

4	<u>Academic achievement (7)</u> SB is Denbighshire's most successful/high performing school with the best exam results/out-performs some private schools	4.62
5.	<u>Calibre of person produced (4)</u> SB produces well mannered, happy , well-disciplined, confident etc. people with good morals who contribute to our community as opposed to being a burden	4.14
6.	<u>Small Size (19)</u> The small size of SB and/or BEJ is the reason for high volume of pupils/success	2.43
7.	<u>High quality teaching and support (53)</u> Teaching standards and levels of additional support are excellent at SB	2.19
8.	<u>Quality (1)</u> High quality Education at SB	1.95
9.	<u>Invest in SB (28)</u> SB should have money invested in it to improve buildings (extend, remodel, upgrade) and facilities	1.7
10.	<u>Status quo (31)</u> SB/BEJ should be left as it is.	1.7

## 5. Analysis of and response to key themes

5.1 Each response was considered and each point made noted to form a list of the types of points. This list is set out below and shows the generic descriptions for each type of comment made, together with a brief response to the comment type.

No	Comment type	Responses from Promoters
1.	High quality Education at SB	The new school would seek to maintain or enhance existing standards of education for pupils
2.	Prepared to travel a long distance to go to SB: pay the associated fuel, public transport, uniform and other ancillary costs because it is an excellent school	It is anticipated that the new school would also be excellent and the promoters have high aspiration for new schools

3.	Rhyl schools deliver poorer standards of education than SB/would not want our child/ren educated in Rhyl	Dispute – see Denbighshire County Council (DCC) details
4.	SB produces well mannered, happy , well-disciplined, confident etc. people with good morals who contribute to our community as opposed to being a burden.	It is anticipated that the new school would seek to ensure that this patterns of behaviour is repeated at any successor school.
5.	SB has a small, caring, warm, calm, loving family/community atmosphere where everyone knows one another/ teachers know the children by name.	Whilst the new school may be slightly larger it would provide appropriate pastoral support, small caring communities can be created
6.	Shocked that DCC wants to close/ considering closure/amalgamation of SB	Requirement for DCC
7.	SB is Denbighshire's most successful/high performing school with the best exam results/out-performs some private schools	Analysis of data would challenge this assumption. Other schools in Denbighshire perform at a higher or similar level.
8.	DCC wishes to build a 'super school' with 900 places in Rhyl and this will not meet the needs of pupils	It is unlikely that the school would be based in Rhyl and serve that number of pupils..
9.	Rhyl has enough investment/Denbigh needs investment	The decision as to where a new faith school will be located has yet to be undertaken and any such decision will include the community impact around location.
10.	Object to/against SB closing/amalgamating with BEJ/forming a new school	Position noted
11.	SB needs updating and improving	Agree with this statement. However there are reservations that simply investing in the status quo would represent the best use of resources.
12.	Pride: DCC should be proud of SB/ the parents, teachers and community are proud of SB	This is noted and we would welcome that level of involvement in new school.
13.	The SB Ethos could not be replicated in a larger/new school	No evidence to support this.
14.	SB/ BEJ receives the least/very little funding from DCC and/or the Diocese	The revenue funding is allocated to schools based on a clear formula. A large element is dependent upon pupil numbers which will impact on the level of funding provided.

15.	The available funds should be split between BEJ and SB/ the schools should not be merged but left as they are (Why can't this happen?)	There are reservations that simply investing in the status quo would represent the best use of resources and would meet the criteria from the Welsh Government for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools and would not be supported by Denbighshire and the diocesan authorities
16.	The consultation period should be extended	The Council was of the view that no valid reasons were provided for such an extension
17.	SB's approach towards pupils with Special Educational Needs/Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Learning difficulty/Learning disability/Health problems is excellent; we chose SB especially and SB benefits our child.	Would be replicated and enhanced in new school.
18.	Child/ren experienced bullying at a previous school but not at SB and has progressed really well since moving there	The new school would aspire to produce a community where bullying is not tolerated.
19.	The small size of SB and/or BEJ is the reason for high volume of pupils/success	No evidence to support this assertion.
20.	A larger school would produce poorer results/ is not acceptable/would call for more hierarchy and standards would slip/would not suit my child	No evidence to support this assertion.
21.	If a new school is built, it should not be in Rhyl but instead on or near the current SB site	Various sites are being considered and no decision has been made at this stage.
22.	SB's location is beautiful/tranquil and that has a positive effect on its pupils	True but new build school required to be excellent from an environmental aspect: BREEAM.
23.	The 3 - 19 provision is beneficial as it smooths the stressful transition process/encourages interaction between different age groups/allows children to stay on for 6th form/should be extended by increasing the size of SB	Views noted around benefits of 3-19 provision. Overall the disadvantages at this stage outweigh the advantages and it is suggested that the new school should be 11 -16
24.	SB's value added score is better than the county average	Girls only?
25.	We will not send our child/ren to any new school/outside of Denbigh	Position noted

26.	SB's lack of facilities/poor buildings are not what make the school. They are not important/ are secondary to the ethos and standards.	Evidence to support. Environment is important. New school will deliver on environment and ethos of the school.
27.	What will happen to the primary school, sixth form and boarders at SB (All of which are valued)?	The informal consultation stage was about gaining views on this elements and a definitive proposal will emerge.
28.	SB should have money invested in it to improve buildings (extend, remodel, upgrade) and facilities	There are reservations that simply investing in the status quo would represent the best use of resources and would meet the criteria from the Welsh Government for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools and would not be supported by Denbighshire and the diocesan authorities
29.	If merger does take place, St Asaph business park would be an ideal location: half way between Rhyl and Denbigh, with good transport links and lots of space; or somewhere else equidistant from the 2 existing sites.	Views noted.
30.	Doubt cast over validity of the consultation process: the decision has already been made/the questionnaire is designed to produce a skewed view/inconsistent or too little information/lip service paid to views	This stage is non statutory. Guidelines for process which have been followed and there will be further opportunities in the next consultation.
31.	SB/BEJ should be left as it is.	This is not considered as a sustainable long term option.
32.	Adverse environmental impact if SB moved to Rhyl/BEJ moved out of Rhyl and/or increased expense/inconvenience to parents	No evidence to support this.
33.	The wishes, views etc. of the governors, teachers, parents and children should be paramount.	Are extremely important: hence consultation; but DCC and Diocese have statutory role as promoters.
34.	SB has an excellent tradition/history etc.	Yes, and it is anticipated that some of the traditions could be incorporated into a new school.
35.	Faith based provision is important.	Yes agree with view. The proposal is about ensuring a strong faith based provision for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.
36.	SB uniform is distinctive/smart and shows people that you go to SB and all that that means.	Is actually very expensive; lots of consultation needed on new uniform.
37.	Children enjoy being educated at SB and thrive there.	Good – this is as aspiration for the new school.
38.	SB offers wonderful extra-curricular activities/broad range of curricular options.	Good – staff at the new school will be very capable of ensuring good extra-curricular activities.

39.	DCC should merge BEJ with Rhyl High. Younger pupils could be on the BEJ site with GCSE and A Level pupils on the RH site. This would allow smaller numbers on each site and the teachers could instil discipline and manners; it would also prevent the younger pupils from being exposed to the behaviour of older ones.	This would dilute the faith provision.
40.	Discussions re closure and merger/actually moving schools is very unsettling for children (and parents) especially those who are already under pressure of performing and achieving the best possible results.	Accept this and at all stages the local authority has been keen to stress that there at this stage there are no actual proposals. However it is necessary in planning for best educational achievement.
41.	Happy with the idea of joint catholic and Anglican provision.	Excellent!
42.	If a new school is built, it should not be in St Asaph (already has Glan Clwyd and traffic congestion); better that it should be in or close to Denbigh	A variety of planning options are being considered.
43.	Any new school should have a sixth form	This position is supported by the Church in Wales and Catholic Diocesan authorities who would work to ensure some element of post 16 provision is provided.
44.	What evidence is there to support the statement, "It is not feasible for a secondary school with fewer than 600 pupils....to provide the facilities described in this vision"?	Economies of scale within curriculum requirements.
45.	DCC should publish features of 21st Century Education in respect of both schools to show how they could meet the criteria	This information will be progressed as part of the formal stage of the consultation on proposals for change to illustrate the need for investment
46.	DCC should publish financial information regarding the current and future costs of both schools (should no change occur), the cost of the existing proposals and other options such as investing in both schools but keeping them separate/other education projects in Denbighshire.	This information was not provided at this stage as there were no proposals for change consulted upon. More detailed information will emerge at a later stage when there are clear proposals for change.
47.	The banding comparison is not a true one: the actual grades achieved by the two schools show a different picture.	Banding is a Welsh Government tool designed to reflect overall performance based on a range of indicators rather than pure academic grades.
48.	DCC should publish details of the intended use of the current sites and the proposed sites for any new school.	This will emerge in the Formal Consultation for a new school site.

49.	Concern that the proposal to merge the schools/build a new school is politically/financially motivated rather than in the interests of education	Absolutely not: both diocese and DCC have met over the past 4 years to plan strategically faith based education in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century.
50.	Closing SB/BEJ and opening a new school in a different area would adversely affect the economy/community of Denbigh and/or Rhyl	Community impact assessment will be undertaken when decisions are taken regarding changes in sites.
51.	SB is not a selective school; the entrance exam taken by some pupils is simply to establish current educational standard/those already in primary school don't take the exam/SB does not cream the top pupils from other catchment areas	There is an entrance exam for new pupils joining at age 11. Admission is based on attaining level 4.
52.	DCC should consider merging BEJ with Ysgol Mair.	Does not address the issue of secondary faith based education for the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
53.	Teaching standards and levels of additional support are excellent at SB	Statement noted
54.	SB currently accepts children from other faiths	Good – Would be replicated in enhanced admission policy – could continue this.
55.	Previous proposals for change could be resurrected and revised in line with 21st Century Schools	Has to be a new proposal – addresses current Welsh Government requirements.
56.	Being able to walk to school/living close to school is an important consideration	Statement noted.
57.	SB could be used as DCC's template for schools	Irrelevant.
58.	SB's school association (Parent Teacher Association equivalent) is very strong and supportive of the school	Welcomed and we hope the new school has a strong PTA.
59.	Management of SC (and BEJ) is good enough or if it is not, any issues can be resolved without closure	Not a management issue; it's about providing facilities for 21 <sup>st</sup> Century schools.
60.	SB should stay where it is in Denbigh on the same site and offering the same range of education (primary secondary and sixth form)	Status quo is not an option.
61.	DCC should explore the possibility of including Islamic and other faiths into both schools	Admissions policy could allocate places to children of other faiths.

62.	SB and BEJ can work collaboratively without the need to close either school	Collaborative working is very positive; although the status quo is not a long term option.
63.	The new school should be a larger SB retaining the SB branding and ethos	This is not considered as a viable alternative moving forward.
64.	Merging a good school (SB) with a poor school (BEJ).the 2 schools will have an adverse effect on the pupils	This is not the case. Both schools are in the same Banding according to Welsh Government statistics
65.	The 2 schools cater successfully for very different target markets	Every child is equal in the eyes of God.
66.	Big is beautiful/ One size fits all is not always the best approach	Plans devised to make best provision for the area and places required.
67.	Any new arrangements should not jeopardise educational attainment	Agree – this is a high aspiration for the new school.
68.	We want Catholic only education	The Bishops want a shared school.
69.	If a new school is built, existing pupils should be entitled to free transport	Transitional arrangements will look at this.
70.	Joint faith Secondary school of up to 600 pupils works	Neither school reaches this figure at present.
71.	SB's selective policy distorts enrolment of some of the more able pupils from Prestatyn	This may be the case. A new school would aim to be inclusive.
72.	Amalgamating 2 small schools will be fairer financially on other secondary schools	Yes.
73.	If a new faith school is built close to Rhyl/Prestatyn, any sixth form provision could be accommodated within the Prestatyn and Rhyl 6th partnership	Church in Wales hopes for 16-19 provision. Obviously co-option with existing other providers would be progressed.
74.	If the schools are amalgamated and an initial split site approach is adopted care should be taken to ensure that the standard of education does not suffer	Agree absolutely. Pastoral care would be provided and any transitional arrangements would be carefully considered
75.	DCC should consider merging SB with Denbigh High	DH is not a faith school and would dilute faith provision
76.	SB's entrance exam maintains standards and any new school should maintain this approach	A selective school is not an option.

77.	SB has had issues with bullying in the past and teachers were not able to control it; its selective policy makes it fairly easy to get good results	The proposals will seek to provide a new school with strong teaching and policies which protect and support children in their learning.
78.	Welcome the idea of a merger	Welcome comment
79.	SB lacks opportunities for boys (sports facilities/broad range of friends)	Yes a new school would provide opportunities for all.
80.	Our child(ren) travel(s) far enough already	This is an issue for parental choice.
81.	Don't want a new school as don't want child(ren) to travel on the bus and can't afford petrol costs/don't want to pay increased costs	Parental choice.
82.	There is a considerable disadvantage to Conwy families who wish their children to receive high standard faith based secondary education	The new school will be more accessible.
83.	If the school moves my child would not be able to attend as we rely on public transport at the moment	Transitional arrangements will be in place to support such instances.
84.	BEJ has many issues, including old building, bullying and smoking	A new school will aspire to have excellent teaching, learning and physical environment.
85.	Things are improving at BEJ	Welcome comment – this is an aspiration of any new school.
86.	Any new school must be in Rhyl: because there are more potential pupils in and around the Rhyl area/more children from disadvantaged backgrounds	Not necessary. This will be a factor in considering location amongst other issues
87.	The small size and family environment is why we chose BEJ	In a larger school, smaller caring communities can be created.
88.	BEJ has a good standard of education	It would be an aspiration of any new school to have excellent teaching & learning.
89.	The teachers are excellent at BEJ	Welcome comment – hope many/most come to new school.
90.	Rhyl's economy has suffered a lot in recent times; if BEJ is closed Rhyl's education provision would suffer	Community impact assessment. This will be an investment in the young people in Rhyl.
91.	Keep SB open/save SB/we'll not let this happen	Recognise the passionate support.
92.	Encouraging others to sign the petition	No comment.

**APPENDIX B**

**REDACTED CORRESPONDENCE**  
(see attached PDF printouts)

## APPENDIX C

### INDEX TO THE REDACTED CORRESPONDENCE

No	Redacted whole/part?	PDF Document
Letters and emails		
1.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
2.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
3.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
4.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
5.	Whole	numbers 1 to 10
6.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
7.	Whole	numbers 1 to 10
8.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
9.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
10.	Part	numbers 1 to 10
11.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
12.	Whole	numbers 11 to 20
13.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
14.	Whole	numbers 11 to 20
15.	Whole	numbers 11 to 20
16.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
17.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
18.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
19.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
20.	Part	numbers 11 to 20
21.	Part	numbers 21 to 30
22.	Part	numbers 21 to 30
23.	Part	numbers 21 to 30
24.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
25.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
25a.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
26.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
27.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
28.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
29.	Part	numbers 21 to 30
30.	Whole	numbers 21 to 30
31.	Whole	Not included
32.	Whole	Not included
33.	Whole	Not included
34.	Part	number 34
35.	Part	numbers 35 and 38
36.	Whole	Not included
37.	Whole	Not included
38.	Part	numbers 35 and 38
39.	Whole	Not included
40.	Part	numbers 40 to 43
41.	Part	numbers 40 to 43
42.	Part	numbers 40 to 43
43.	Part	numbers 40 to 43
44.	Part	numbers 44 to 48
45.	Whole	numbers 44 to 48
46.	Whole	numbers 44 to 48

47.	Part	numbers 44 to 48
48.	Part	numbers 44 to 48
49.	Whole	Not included
50.	Whole	Not included
51.	Part	numbers 51 and 52
52.	Part	numbers 51 and 52
53.	Part	numbers 53 to 55
54.	Whole	numbers 53 to 55
55.	Whole	numbers 53 to 55
56 - 114	Various	Email responses
115.	Whole	Not included
<b>No</b>	<b>Redacted whole/part?</b>	<b>Document</b>
Additional comments (relating to the questionnaires)		
1.	Part	A002
2.	Part	A003
3.	Part	A005
4.	Part	A006
5.	Part	A007
6.	Part	A008
7.	Part	A009

## APPENDIX D

### Summary of questionnaire results

#### Having your say on the future of faith based education

##### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document presents the results from the Questionnaire circulated to staff and parents of St Brigid's and Blessed Edward Jones as part of the Informal Consultation.
- 1.2 The content of the questionnaire is set out below and the results are shown in section 2.

**Q1 Which school are your children currently attending?**

Blessed Edward Catholic High School	St Brigid's

**Q2 For each of these children please write their current year group in the boxes below**

Primary (St Brigid's)	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12 / 13

**Q3 Using the numbers 1 to 7 please rank the following from most important to least important in terms of their influence on your choice of secondary education**

*Please rank them 1 to 7 where 1 is the most important and 7 is the least important. Make sure you use every number from 1 to 7 once and **do not use any number more than once***

<i>Faith provision</i>		<i>Quality of school buildings</i>	
<i>Another child already at the school</i>		<i>Quality of education</i>	
<i>Distance from your home</i>		<i>Size of school</i>	
<i>Ease of access / transport to school</i>			

**Q4 Would a school offering a joint Anglican / Catholic faith based education alter your choice of school?**

<i>More likely to attend</i>	<i>Would have no impact</i>	<i>Be less likely to attend</i>	<i>Not sure / don't know</i>

The following questions will assist in the consideration of any future location

Please confirm your home postcode

**Q5 How would the distance of any school from your home impact on your choice of school? (Please cross one box only on each distance option)?**

	<i>No Change</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Not sure / don't know</i>
Less than 3 miles			
3 miles to 5 miles			
More than 5 miles			

**Q6** If you answered 'Change' in Q5 please explain why

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**Q7** The Authority provides free transport for pupils of statutory age attending Secondary schools if the child resides over three miles from the nearest suitable school.

What is the longest journey time that you consider acceptable each way (*please cross one box only*)

0-9 minutes	10-19 minutes	20 – 29 minutes	30 – 44 minutes

**Q8** Please detail any other issues you may wish to raise

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Please note below whether you agree for your response to be published. With your permission, responses will be reproduced – with personal data such as names and addresses removed – in reports to the Council on the statutory consultation period.

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Denbighshire County Council is seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the Council may publish my response after removing personal information
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, the Council may not publish my response

**Please return to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council**

## 2. Analysis of responses

### Q1 Which school are your children currently attending?

The table below shows the total number of completed questionnaires received and the school to which those responses relate.

SB	BEJ	Total
101	77	178

### Q2. For each of these children please write their current year group in the boxes below

Year Group	SB		BEJ		Total	
	Actual	%	Actual	%	Actual	%
Primary	57	40	N/A	N/A	57	26
Year 7	20	14	21	26	41	18
Year 8	15	11	21	26	36	16
Year 9	17	12	14	17	31	14
Year 10	10	7	18	22	28	13
Year 11	7	5	2	2	9	4
Year 12/13	11	8	0	0	11	5
Past Pupil	3	2	0	0	3	1
Did not answer/spoilt	2	1	5	6	7	3
<b>Total</b>	142	100	81	100	223	100

### Q3. Using the numbers 1 to 7 please rank the following from most important to least important in terms of their influence on your choice of secondary education

Rank	SB			BEJ		
	Option	Average Score	%*	Option	Average Score	%*
1	Quality of education	1.35	75	Quality of education	1.51	69
2	Size of school	2.68	8.75	Faith provision	3.64	14.5
3	Faith provision	3.13	12.5	Distance form home	3.71	9
4	Another child at the school	4.96	1.25	Quality of buildings	4.24	3.6
5	Distance from home	5	1.25	Ease of access/transport	4.38	0
6	Ease of access/transport	5.01	0	Size of school	4.71	0
7	Quality of buildings	5.73	0	Another child at the school	5.82	3.6

\*This shows the percentage of total respondents to this question who scored the particular option with a '1'.

**Q4. Would a school offering a joint Anglican / Catholic faith based education alter your choice of school?**

Rank	SB			BEJ		
	Option	No of responses	%	Option	No of responses	%
1	Be less likely to attend	38	37.6	Would have no impact	35	45.4
2	Would have no impact	34	33.7	More likely to attend	16	20.8
3	Not sure/don't know	14	13.9	Not sure/don't know	14	18.2
4	Did not answer/spoilt	8	7.9	Be less likely to attend	8	10.4
5	More likely to attend	7	6.9	Did not answer/spoilt	4	5.2
	<b>Total</b>	101	100	<b>Total</b>	77	100

**Postcode analysis: distance travelled to school**

Distance	SB		BEJ	
	No of responses	%	No of responses	%
Less than a mile	2	2.3	34	47.89
1-2 miles	1	1.15	12	16.9
2-3 miles	7	8.05	12	16.9
3-4 miles	10	11.49	4	5.63
4-5 miles	3	3.45	4	5.63
5-6 miles	7	8.05	3	4.23
6-7 miles	4	4.60	2	2.82
7-8 miles	2	2.30		
8-9 miles	5	5.75		
9-10 miles	5	5.75		
10-11 miles	7	8.05		
11-12 miles	8	9.20		
12-13 miles	4	4.60		
13-14 miles	7	8.05		
14-15 miles	3	3.45		
15-16 miles	2	2.30		
16-17 miles	1	1.15		
17-18 miles	1	1.15		
18-19 miles	2	2.30		
19-20 miles	2	2.30		
20-21 miles	2	2.30		
21-24 miles	1	1.15		
24-26 miles	1	1.15		

**Q5. How would the distance of any school from your home impact on your choice of school? (Please cross one box only on each distance option)?**

Distance	No change		Change		Not sure/don't know	
	SB	BEJ	SB	BEJ	SB	BEJ
Less than 3 miles	68	58	8	7	4	3
3 to 5 miles	57	23	16	25	7	11
More than 5 miles	47	9	33	32	4	17

**Q6. If you answered 'Change' in Q5 please explain why SB responses**

1.	My children travel far enough already
2.	Our daughter already travels much more than 5 miles to school
3.	Costs of fuel to take my children to school, ease for myself to get to work
4.	Because St.Brigids is an excellent school why take it away from Denbigh- there will be nothing left soon.
5.	Our daughter has a diagnosis of Autism and ADHD. She likes a small environment close to home. We would not consider educating her outside the immediate area.
6.	If the school did have to move site then St.Asaph would be the furthest we would want to travel to taking into account time, fuel costs and actual location.
7.	I want my child to live near the school site in case of emergencies or sickness, where I or a family member could pick her up quickly. I would like to be near for after school clubs, social events and parental meetings.
8.	I would not welcome any change to the secondary provision of St.Brigids, it would totally undermine the primary and sixth form Denbighshire schools consortium. Secondary is the heart of St.Brigids and needs saving.
9.	I fought long and hard for my children to go to a Catholic school in our catchment area. I am very happy with their current provision, education, health and safety and their feeling like they belong to a lovely family community.
10.	I am a Catholic, as I prefer them (children) to have religious values, I also want them to have best quality education. I personally feel that joining Blessed Teds and St.Brigids will drag the educational standard which is maintained at St.Brigids.
11.	I would have to consider all other variables which might influence my decision as there would be a wider choice of schools to look at.
12.	Could not afford the petrol, didn't want my child to be going on school bus to get to school.
13.	With travelling costs getting more expensive all the time, it will be a key factor in where my daughter will go to school.
14.	I would not consider sending my children to school in the Rhyl area and will withdraw them from Catholic schooling in this event (which would be a shame)
15.	Although we have a car, we frequently need to walk to school, so need to be within walking distance.

16.	It would depend on how far it was and if there was free transport available.
17.	We live in Denbigh and I expect that my children should be able to go to a <u>good</u> school in Denbigh. Taking the children to school and picking them up fits in with my work schedule and travel. My children <u>will not</u> go to a merged school outside Denbigh.
18.	It all depends on the school. I feel this is a leading question. Our top priority is not distance but QUALITY OF EDUCATION!!! If you merge with another school - we will NOT attend.
19.	Issues of parent getting to work within allotted timescale. Increase in personal cost, travel arrangements must be put in place and minimal costs to those parents affected the most. Bus/Taxi service. Many of the pupils will not be at the nearest suitable school! So will cost still be met?
20.	My child has health problems & I need to be able to get to his school quickly on occasions. I will definitely not send him to the new school if it is outside Denbigh.
21.	I WILL NOT BE SENDING MY CHILD TO THE NEW SCHOOL IF IT IS OUTSIDE DENBIGH.
22.	I chose this school as I want my boys to attend a Roman Catholic School, its 1/2 way to my place of work employment. I cannot afford to travel any further, and I would like them to stay where they are already.
23.	I send my child to St Brigid's and my three younger god children go there because of its Catholic Ethos its provision from 4 - 18 and the quality of the education as well as the protective family environment
24.	As we are very happy with St Brigids we are prepared to travel a long way to attend.
25.	The environmental impact of driving more than 5 miles, plus the return journey, twice a day would be far more detrimental than our current journey.
26.	I would not send my children to a school at Rhyl, Boddlewyddan, Rhuddlan. I will send my children to St Brigid's or I will if the merger goes ahead move them somewhere else I will not send them to the NEW SCHOOL.
27.	I would not like to have my daughter travelling more than five miles as this adds hours on to the school day and a large centrally based school does not mean quality education.
28.	I would be willing to make sacrifices financially and give up my time to transport my children to the best <u>appropriate</u> school that would meet their needs.
29.	A school in Rhyl would change my mind on the decision as the where to send my child.
30.	Both our daughters have travelled to St Brigid's. Distance is not the factor, it is the quality of their education and the values they are taught that are not evident in larger state schools. However, we will not send them to a school in or near Rhyl.
31.	I would not want my children spending any longer travelling than they do now. We live 8 miles from school – if it moved nearer to Rhyl it would greatly increase their travel time. Also extra travel time for me as a parent when they have to stay for after school activities or parents evening etc.
32.	Happy to send children to a school over 5 miles away.
33.	Providing a school has a good record of academic achievement and our child is happy in a nurturing environment the distance to travel to school would not alter our choice of school.
34.	If I went to St Brigid's then the distance wouldn't matter. You travel for a school like St Brigid's.
35.	Distance is not as important as location. Denbigh offers reasonable access and vicinity to work. It's also a pleasing location away from towns and cities with high levels of violent crimes, drugs and unsocial behaviour.

36.	If the school was the same as St Brigid's, distance would not matter but if it's another large school I might as well use a local large school.
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### BEJ Responses

1.	Why should I change from my home location to suit others when my son is doing well
2.	My son is special need so <u>must</u> be close to home. My son has a medical condition which often means I need to attend school during the day. I am disabled and do not drive, I cannot afford taxi fares. I will not send my son any distance as leaving early and being back later will make his fatigue worse risking his health.
3.	As a proud Rhyl resident and family from Rhyl within last 120 years I believe we have a right to expect good education on our doorstep 1-2 miles to educate up and coming families for the next 100 years on as Rhyl is populated enough to expect this.
4.	Do not want my children to use school transport to get to school. They should be close enough to walk ideally as it's much healthy for them.
5.	I don't have transport, so need the school to be in walking distance.
6.	My child would have no way of getting to school as I don't drive. Also, in an emergency I wouldn't be able to get to school myself.
7.	Less travel is less risk of child being involved in accidents.
8.	As my son is a Type 1 Diabetic I think it is very important to keep the school in Rhyl area. As I'm not a driver.
9.	Preferred school free transport. Currently spending £120 per month for taxi.
10.	If the school was too far to travel, early mornings and home late (winter terms)
11.	The provision of LOCAL secondary education should be just that "LOCAL" and not subject to lengthy travel times to and from school.
12.	Both my son and I have mobility issues. If he needed me in school hours it would make a huge difference as I could not get there quickly. I could not afford taxi fares. He also gets fatigued now so extra time travelling would make it worse.
13.	Too far to walk. Sometimes both parents go to work before 8:00am
14.	A school should be within a reasonable distance, and ideally in the nearest main town.
15.	I do not wish my children not to be within walking distance to school.
16.	I don't wish for my child to have to travel on her own. If it's too far I won't be able to get her there.
17.	I would prefer my daughter to go to a school closer to home.
18.	I would be worried on dark nights if journey took a long time and lateness at school. Be punctual.
19.	I'm happy with the school the way it is running now.
20.	We have lived more than 5 miles from school before and we had to travel by bus and had to leave home early in the morning and didn't get home at night 'til after 6 sometimes 7.
21.	I do not wish my children not to be beyond walking distance from school.
22.	We don't want our child to have a long journey to & from school every day. Also, she goes to homework club in the library most days, so I would have to pick her up then, so free transport would not be available, and I have 2 other children to pick up from school at Primary level.

23.	Our granddaughter walks to school on fine weather days and I take her in the car when the weather is bad.
24.	My son walks to school as we have no other means of getting him there.
25.	Rhyl is number 1 on the Welsh Index of multiple deprivation ranking. It doesn't make sense to move a school further away from those already living in poverty. Many parents don't drive; how do they collect their children if they are poorly or involved in accident?
26.	I feel that my child should be able to walk to school if necessary. Free school buses are no use if your child attends any after school activities.
27.	If no transport is available this would make it difficult and I would have to consider if this option is viable.

**Q7. What is the longest journey time that you consider acceptable each way?**

SB			BEJ		
Time	No of responses	%	Time	No of responses	%
0-9 minutes	27	26.73	0-9 minutes	12	15.58
10-19 minutes	30	29.70	10-19 minutes	35	45.45
20-29 minutes	25	24.75	20-29 minutes	22	28.57
30-44 minutes	15	14.85	30-44 minutes	3	3.90
Didn't answer	4	3.96	Didn't answer	5	6.49

**Q8. Please detail any other issues you may wish to raise**  
**SB Responses**

1.	St. Brigid's is a wonderful school and has done so many wonderful things for my girls and my family at large. It would be a disaster to see it close... But be warned we will not go quietly - fighting you all the way with the support of AMs/ MPs etc.
2.	We made the decision to send our daughter to St. Brigid's because of the excellent quality of education and good discipline which the school currently offers. Our daughter is really happy at the school and enjoys the warm family feel the school strives to give. If the school did merge we would have to consider removing our daughter and putting her into a private school as we feel there is not a school in the area that can offer the same quality of education in a small warm and friendly atmosphere that St. Brigid's gives.
3.	St. Brigid's is an excellent school with good grades and a caring atmosphere. Why change it? I will not be sending my child to any future school.
4.	I sent my daughter to St. Brigid's because of its friendly well education attitude. I think it would be a shame to move the school when so many girls and boys are at an important stage of education. St. Brigid's is a wonderful family feel school and I think their grades speak for themselves.

5.	St.Brigid's was chosen by us for its wonderful reputation and the personal experience I have of knowing many ex St.Brigid's pupils. St.Brigid's produces well mannered, well rounded, intelligent individuals. We wanted this for our daughter and in future her sister. We would stop our daughter attending St.Brigid's and enrol her at Rydal if the proposed new school were to be accepted. The discipline, values and moral standpoints adopted by St.Brigid's are exemplary. Our daughter was bullied whilst she attended Bodnant, her life was miserable and so was ours. St.Brigid's has turned everything around. Molly loves going to school and is a different child. We are totally opposed to any change to St.Brigid's.
6.	Due to our daughter's diagnosis, she has a Statement of Special Educational needs and St.Brigid's is named on this statement. It was agreed with the LEA that this was the most suitable school for her and it has proved to be the case. We are delighted with how she has settled there and how the school addresses her needs. If the school was closed and relocated out of the area we would have no option but to home educate her. This was our intention had she not attended St.Brigid's.
7.	I wholeheartedly welcome the idea of a new school building- but at the current site of St.Brigid's school- which more children of Anglican/ Catholic faith can attend. This would capitalise on the existing high quality ethos and reputation of St.Brigid's as well as the psychology of the beautiful location. School tradition and history should not be underestimated. A new school at a different location would simply be yet another 'new' school. It seems rash and thoughtless to completely obliterate a 'flagship' and very happy school for yet another new style school. Let others share our positive and happy experience of education. The provision of a 3-18 school- with faith provision- has to be a significant factor. This enables children to develop through faith- hand-in-hand with education.
8.	A faith based school should be based in the centre of the County. We live in the south of Denbighshire and my daughter has a very long journey. This makes her journey even longer. Placing a faith based school further north reduces its availability to the population of the whole county.
9.	My daughter was offered a place at St.Brigids after passing an entrance exam. I believe this maintains the integrity and standards of the school. Would a new school be 'inclusive' to all or would there be minimum standards set? Although I live in Flintshire I chose St.Brigids due to the size and family environment of the school.
10.	I have great concern over the effect on the standard of education if the two schools were to merge. I would never considered sending my children to Blessed Edward school and am worried how their education may suffer from this proposal.
11.	St.Brigids should undoubtedly be preserved in its current size and location. St.Brigid's school has been producing excellent results year after year, which I wholeheartedly believe is due to the small size and location of St.Brigids school.
12.	St.Brigids successful reputation is being achieved by having reduced numbers thus ensuring no child goes un-noticed. Mixing infants, juniors and seniors encourages a caring environment where older children see it their duty to behave in a manner that is suitable for all ages. The discipline and ethos of the school is liked by the children and parents as it gives boundaries which ensure each child can learn in a way where the teacher is respected and listened to. The unusual but smart uniform gives the children a sense of pride and self-worth. We live in Denbigh and would not want our children to attend a school in Rhyl.

13.	In St.Brigids my mother taught for 16 years and I was a pupil for 8 years and I know the value of the education provided by St.Brigids. It is not about the buildings, it is about the ethos and dedication of the staff and parents. I have decided that if the school is to be re-sited in the Rhyl area my child will not be attending.
14.	St.Brigids is a fantastic school with exceptional values. The family feel to it is wonderful. I don't think a new school would have the same appeal. I fought for a place for my daughter because I felt she would go down the wrong path in another local high school. In St.Brigids she still maintains her manners, her friendships, her respect for elders, she is not following a path that some of her friends already are!
15.	Do not agree with any proposed merger. St.Brigids 'works'. If it's not broken, don't fix it! When more and more schools and education authorities are changing to 3 to 19, how ironic is it that you want to take a step backward with faith education in Denbighshire. Think again.
16.	In the long run might well be in favour of a joint secondary school. However not in Rhyl. Blessed Edward Jones catchment area is for Catholic parishes from Prestatyn to Llandudno and down to Denbigh but it only seems to serve mainly the community of Rhyl. Do not feel short term amalgamation of St.Brigids and BEJ is a good idea, would strongly oppose this idea.
17.	St. Brigids is an excellent school with excellent exam results, I choose St.Brigids for my daughter from the age of 8 upwards due to small school numbers, strict classroom management and the emphasis on academic achievement. I also chose it due to lack of bullying and the location of the school, school grounds etc. Money should be invested into this school rather than build another comprehensive where teachers have no idea who pupils are and the less able pupils attend. I went to Rhyl High school and was subjected to 7 years of hell! St.Brigids needs to stay where it is with the excellent education provision and excellent teaching. All pupils of this school show respect and politeness unlike other schools such as Rhyl High School, Blessed Edward Jones and Emyrs ap Iwan.
18.	No amount of new build etc. would compensate for the current provision of education at St.Brigids. Review the Estyn reports and parental feedback. Teachers' commitment is second to none. The target setting and future proofing of this school is outstanding. Just watching the secondary nativity tonight proves how much love, warmth and heart is within that school community. St.Brigids is worth 100% more than any other school in the county.
19.	If two schools were to join I would seriously consider another maybe private school in the catchment area. St.Brigids offers the whole school environment and educational package that I have wanted for my children. Their happiness means everything to myself and their family including their friends and teachers alike.
20.	I would be very open to the merging of both schools in a new building in a central Denbighshire site. St.Brigids is an excellent school with a great ethos, however there are less opportunities for boys such as wider sporting facilities and a greater range of male friends. The learning environment and quality of education far outweigh location of the school.
21.	I consider St.Brigids to be the most suitable school for my daughters yet we have to pay £24 a week each to get them there. St.Brigids is an excellent school with extremely high standards. Surely a school like this should not be allowed to close or merge. We as a family are against the merge and my daughters would not attend the school.
22.	St.Brigids is a small school and the teacher/pupil relationship is friendly and excellent. Staff know all pupils and their home circumstances, which is important.

23.	Surely we should support a school which achieves such high standards in education. We chose to educate our children at St.Brigids for this reason, we would not choose a larger school or one which would involve a longer journey.
24.	St.Brigids school offers high quality education and has a family atmosphere along with religious ethos. While England has the provision of Grammar schools, Wales has none. Personally I cannot afford to send my children to a private school. St.Brigids offers children not only good quality education but also forms them to be responsible members of the community. Children are well disciplined with good manners. You should be able to keep the school as it is now and the provision of schooling available from ages 3-19. This is a plea, council should be investing in schools with high educational standards.
25.	My daughter is currently in year 9, I specifically sent her to this school because of the good standard of teaching/results and the ethos of the school which I believe no other in the area has. I also sent her to this school because it was smaller and promoted family and nurturing values which is clearly evident- I believe this is created because it is a 3-19 school. If any new school is provided it should include a sixth form to allow those children already in the school and new ones to come to complete their education in one establishment with their friends.
26.	Why is this questionnaire so focused on the distance/journey time to school? Perhaps the educational standards and pastoral care provided by the schools should be given greater consideration than the mechanism for ferrying the children around. Where do Denbighshire Council's priorities really lie? Is this proposal honestly going to even maintain, never mind improve, the educational standards of St. Brigid's?
27.	The whole point of my child coming to St.Brigids school is because it is a small school, if you mix it with Blessed Edward Jones school it will become just like a high school, keep it small, my child couldn't cope with that size, so we'd be back to a very unhappy child and parents!
28.	The size of the new school will be an issue as far as we are concerned. St.Brigids 'works' being small, friendly, productive. New state of the art facilities are not important!
29.	Although our house is a few miles away to St.Brigids school, we decided to send our daughter to pursue her secondary education in this school because of the high standard of teaching education like other parents are aiming for. Merging the 2 schools would not be a problem as long as the above standard will be maintained. Location of a new school building should be in between Denbigh and Rhyl- maybe somewhere in St.Asaph or Bodelwyddan.
30.	I went to St.Brigids (Year 7 to sixth form) As stated I travelled 30 mins to get to/from school and I would do this again in a heartbeat. The state of the building meant nothing to me when I was a child at this school- cold classrooms/ mobiles/ flaking wallpaper- it meant nothing- What does mean everything is the amazing teachers, caring attitudes, amazing ethos, small class sizes which means everyone knowing one another- supportive environment - you do not get this in bigger schools. St.Brigids is a family- and this family won't go down- we will fight to keep our school.

31.	I would like to raise my concerns over the 'transparency' of this proposal. I work within education and in North Wales and am aware of contradictions in information given publicly to interested parties and information I have 'heard' unofficially from reliable sources. I chose St.Brigids for my daughters based on the quality of education it provides and its results, along with the continuity of 3-19. I value highly the 'family' atmosphere that a small school like St.Brigids provides and as a practicing Catholic family we would not be happy for the school to become jointly Anglican. We commute a considerable distance to provide these benefits to our children and should the school lose its speciality I may as well send them to school closer to home. My hope would be for provision to remain unchanged. If not then to retain primary onsite at St.Brigids with secondary provision as a grammar school.
32.	We chose St.Brigids, among other reasons for its exceptional education. Besides the private schools, it surpasses every other school and we live in Denbigh for this reason. If the school merges with a less successful school it cannot possibly maintain this. We therefore will not attend. Most of the parents we speak to are of the same frame of mind. We don't talk about the new school, we all discuss where we're going instead. Not only will Denbighshire lose its best school, but it will end up with a brand new empty building. St. Brigids teaches beautiful messages- edifying, inspirational moulding youngsters in the way they should go. This is truly special. I've not heard of any other faith school doing this with such care or impact. It would be a terrible risk to take to merge with a different faith- it would be impossible not to alter how that is done.
33.	As St.Brigids school is a small school and receives limited funding from the LEA- how do they justify the economic benefit of building a new school? If as stated a 'multifaith' school is planned, aren't the LEA just building another comprehensive school. This will not carry the same values and beliefs at St.Brigids.
34.	I have one daughter in St.Brigids at the moment who has been there since nursery and is now in year 8. She is extremely happy there, her education is fantastic and she is excelling in many subjects, the school is her 2nd family. I have an 18 month old child and I'm very worried as to where this child will go to school and I do not want her to miss out on the fantastic experience of going to St.Brigids school, it would be a crying shame to shut this school, it's amazing, the whole place is just truly wonderful, teachers, pupils, everything even the atmosphere.
35.	I strongly disagree that St Brigid's School should be closed and new school built. St Brigid's School is a unique school with many outstanding features. It has a very special ethos, with total commitment to pupils to embrace school life that cannot be replicated elsewhere. The quality of teaching is very good with excellent results obtained by students throughout their education from foundation phase right through to sixth form. The quality of the buildings needs attention, but this could be improved quite easily, with additional classrooms/facilities with investment.
36.	I totally oppose the proposal to merge St Brigid's with Blessed Edward Jones. St Brigid's is the highest achieving school in Denbighshire and has no behaviour/discipline problems. It is also the school which receives the least funding. Your plans to close it are wrong. You are not saying what your plans are for the infant and junior school at St Brigid's - where will they go? Parents have not been given sufficient time information or reasonable time. The consultation meeting has been held too close to the consultation deadline. The consultation period needs to be extended due to lack of timely information, running over xmas & school closed.

37.	We like the size of St Brigid's and the family atmosphere it promotes. The wellbeing of the pupils is utmost in the care and education provided. This would not be the case in a much bigger school where your child would just be a number and not personally known by name by every teacher and staff member.
38.	Again, another leading question. We would not travel any distance (even a few yards) to a poor school. St Brigid's is a wonderful school with excellent standards. Please don't ruin it. We value the 3 -19 aspect and you make no reference to this overleaf as an option. Think about what you are doing!
39.	1. New site to be located close to St Brigid's. Denbigh needs investment. 2. St Brigid's "has the family feel", children feel safe and secure. 3. St Brigid's has excellent discipline, good manners and children into well-rounded members of the community. 4. St Brigid's is the highest achieving school in Denbighshire! Outperforming many others so should be valued and invested in . 5. Faith ethos is highly valued. 6. Distance travel increase will effect carbon immersions, the environment and costs in regard to fuel and expense. 7. Extra points: cost of extra fuel, personal work issues, uniform change costs, communication, hope to have input in design of new school, if or when it goes ahead. I will look to education our children elsewhere if necessary.
40.	<u>See Appendix document AS002</u>
41.	<u>See Appendix document AS003</u>
42.	The quality of information education and the family atmosphere would be lost if my boys lost their place in St Brigid's. I always wanted them to feel safe and progress and St Brigid's gives that. Fantastic manners and the high standards the school provides. Also the Ethos of the school. I will not send my boys to any new school. I want them to continue in the beautiful settings. They are very settled and are doing extremely well a move would be so drastic. St Brigid's is family orientated and you would not get the service elsewhere. St Brigid's receives outstanding results. Why change this. I would be happy for St Brigid's to remain on the Denbigh Site. Denbigh is losing far too much.
43.	<u>See Appendix document AS005</u>
44.	St Brigid's is a very successful school which takes pupils of <u>all</u> abilities and gets the very best out of them so that they leave the school as well educated rounded individuals. It is not necessary to have lots of equipment and flashy buildings to achieve this, just an environment and staff who genuinely care about "their" school and because of their attitude they encourage their pupils to work hard and achieve the best they can. I doubt whether the consultation will achieve anything as it seems in the end the proposals will go through, eventually fail and when it is too late the movers and the shakers move on and other people are left to pick up the pieces.
45.	This questionnaire does not account for the fact that parents who are willing to travel more than 5 miles to take their children to St Brigid's only do so because it is such a wonderful, successful school. I would not allow my children to attend a new faith school unless it was based on the model of St Brigid's, and it was a 3-19 yr school. The Formula St Brigid's has <u>works</u> and produces wonderful, rounded people who can only enhance our society, never mind its academic results.

46.	<u>See Appendix document AS006</u>
47.	<u>See Appendix document AS007</u>
48.	<u>See Appendix document AS008</u>
49.	We live in Rhyl but choose to pay for our children to travel to St Brigids. We really would like our children to continue with their education at St Brigids as they both used to attend schools in Rhyl and are much much happier now they have moved. If a super school is built we will move our children to another school. Our view is to keep the schools as they are.
50.	I have two children in primary St Brigid's. I would not want all three children in the same school/vicinity to continuity and security for them.
51.	St Brigid's is the <u>highest</u> achieving school in Denbighshire. Schools which achieve such high standards should be invested in not broken up to make one large failing school! The council should take this opportunity to build on the St Brigid's Ethos and expand the secondary school there not close it and destroy the good work all the teachers/governors/pupils have put in for many years. I support the retention of existing arrangements and the development of the St Brigid's site!
52.	Why does the council automatically feel that is (sic) the God given right to, yet again, interfere and rip the heart out of an outstanding school. St Brigid's offers a level of care, education, and commitment that is second to none. Please allow it to continue doing an incredible job, where children can find exceptional happiness, and the confidence to be independent, intelligent individuals. I have a child at each of the schools in question, but chose St Brigids for our youngest on account of its "exceptional" education, and its outstanding credibility.
53.	For DCC to even contemplate closing St Brigid's beggars belief. There is something very spiritual about St Brigid's that is not relocatable so I for one would not send my child to any proposed new school. Why do you want to get rid of all the good things we have? Is there jealousy regarding the success of the school? You should be supporting the school in its current form and location. Please <u>listen</u> to what the people (parents pupils) want, not what you want.
54.	Quality of education in a Catholic school are my main considerations. St Brigid's offers a family environment with high standards of behaviour and excellence of education. Both of my children have attended the school since the age of 3 and have benefitted enormously from close contact with older and younger pupils that a 3 to 19 Catholic faith school offers. Although we would welcome investment in new buildings not at the cost of losing the valuable education and family environment. As working parents the option for children to Board when working away is invaluable and also at times when we have had urgent caring responsibilities for elderly parents.
55.	St Brigid's is a lovely small school with a family atmosphere, where children can stay in their secure environment from nursery to 6th form if they wish. It would be a shame to lose this environment. To move the school would create longer journeys for many children and parents even though transport is provided. It appears that the school site move is favouring Rhyl pupils as it is a larger school.
56.	I attended the meeting at St Brigid's on Thursday 10th January. It was quite clear from the views that were put forward by the speakers that they were in favour of a new school being built. They said that no decision had been made but quite clearly from documentation I have seen since this was not the case. It was said that 600 pupils was the minimum number needed for a secondary school. All the documentation I have seen from DCC gives no evidence to support this claim so where does this come from?

57.	Why would DCC want to close the highest achieving school. St Brigids should be valued & invested in. DCC need to listen to parents and pupils.
58.	Very concerned that we may lose the continuity attendant on the current 3 - 19 school. The current education on offer at St Brigids is modern enough and as parents we are very happy with the status quo. Surely 3 - 19 education system is one to emulate and is an example of good practice. The advantages of the small school size allows a personal more tailored education - which fits the individual and is much more important than active whiteboards and modern buildings.
59.	I am not going to send my daughter to the new school as it would not have the same family atmosphere that St Brigid's has. I have send reasons separately.
60.	St Brigid's school has a distinctive and unique ethos/feel, whilst this is not quantifiable it is tangible. It is also the reason we chose to send our son there. As you state, 'the educational standards at St Brigid's are high', so it is important to ensure that this is maintained. The best way to ensure that St Brigid's continues its high quality education, in our opinion, is to 'remodel and reconstruct' the existing school. To be fair, the state of the building is not important to us. The quality of teaching and 'family' feel of the school is why our son loves going there.
61.	St Brigid's would be able to hold 600+ pupils that you keep mentioning/quoting. Expand St Brigid's alone. We will not send our children to your new school. Use the £28.8 million pounds by giving St Brigid's some of it to expand/regenerate - like Glan Clwyd and Rhyl High. These schools have been allowed to put in mobile classrooms ! So don't say these mobiles don't fit in with 21st Century Schools! <u>We will not let you close our school!</u>
62.	We are of Anglican faith and welcome the opportunity to send children to Joint Faith School. St Brigid's school buildings not fit for purpose and in need of investment. If the two schools are amalgamated please can we have a new joint faith school on a new site but not in Rhyl.
63.	I am opposed to the merger I will not send my children there or any future children to the new merged school.
64.	St Brigid's is a beacon of success in Denbighshire. It consistently returns high levels of success in GCSE and A Level results. In the GCSE 2010 performance tables, Wales Families of Schools, St Brigid's achieved highly with 93% of entrants achieving 5 A* to C. St Brigid's is the only school in the area offering continuity of education in age groups 3 - 19. This is a template of education used by Ceredigion CC to explore the future of education in that county. See Appendix document AS009
65.	St Brigid's is unique in that it offers education for 3 - 19 year olds. It is a comfort to think that my daughter would be able to stay at a school in which: she is very happy, has excellent discipline, a caring ethos, is one of the highest achieving school in Denbighshire - out performing some private schools, all the way to sixth form. Therefore my preference would be for the retention of the existing arrangements for the school. Failing this I would prefer the development of St Brigid's on its existing site. It should be taken into consideration that if St Brigid's were to close, this would have a detrimental effect on Denbigh town. Most children travel from other areas, St Brigid's parents visit local supermarkets, shops, cafes, restaurants and leisure centres on a daily basis. These customers would vanish. Denbigh needs investment too.

66.	When our daughter was ready to start school we had 3 choices, we chose St Brigid's as it had the best ethos, exam results and environment for our child. We chose St Brigid's although it meant a daily commute of up to 40 miles, which is a small sacrifice for the quality of education she now receives. The easier option would have been to send her to a more local school like Ysgol Mair and then onto Blessed Edward Jones but this was never an option for our daughter, in fact these schools would have been last on our list, therefore we have absolutely no intention of sending our daughter to a new school which has been built to save failing numbers and failing exam results in Rhyl. Our wish is for our daughter to continue her education at St Brigid's until she is 18 years old.
67.	I feel that the closure of the school is a bad idea St Brigid's is an amazing school and for myself as a former pupil I wanted my children to go there and learn and be educated to the best possible and so far all I see are excellent results; to close would be a bad idea.
68.	A smaller school like St Brigid's offers a more personal friendly and caring atmosphere.
69.	The ethos of such a successful school as Brigid's should be regarded as best practice and replicated on the same model; not diluted and lost. I am also concerned about six form provisions under the new proposal.
70.	It is recommended that a light be shone upon high quality education yet Denbighshire seem determined to snuff it out in the unseemly chasing of Welsh Assembly funding.
71.	St Brigid's School offers children of all backgrounds an environment to excel and achieve more than they could imagine. 50%of the pupils at the school are there through virtue of baptismal certificates. The 3-19 model seems to actually conclusively work. The school is oversubscribed every year because of its pass rates and good reputation - my only regret to date is that more children cannot attend the school. The current Denbigh location with many classrooms overlooking the Clwydian Range is truly inspiring and the available land for expansion at the site makes it attractive. Moving a faith school further North will exclude faith family children from the South of the Denbighshire.

### BEJ Responses

1.	We have many issues that need sorting - on old building, bullying, smoking <b>BUT</b> things are getting better. We have just gained a good report from the Inspectors. Why force us into a merger with a different type of school now? Seems ridiculous. I have younger children that I would <u>Now</u> be sending to Rhyl High (neither of yours).
2.	I prefer a small school with a family environment. I do not agree with 'superschools'. My son wanted Blessed Edward Jones and worked hard to be well enough to go. The standard of education is good, our new head excellent. With some structural improvement the school could continue as is. If it is a numbers game why not put Ysgol Mair and Blessed Edwards together. A new head at Mair would improve it and numbers would rise. If you merge schools Mair could be at risk as it feeds BEJ. You do not seem to be looking at how it affect S.E.N. pupils who feel safe as is. I am disappointed parents and pupils were not consulted in the early stages. Will we be listened to?
3.	There is the largest population of available potential pupils residing in Rhyl. There are children from disadvantaged backgrounds whose parents would not entertain them travelling even if transport was paid for. Environmentally it does not make sense to move larger numbers of children away from Rhyl. I embrace the idea of Catholic/Anglican partnership.
4.	Change can be a good thing, but Rhyl has lost its identity lately over the last few years - let's not lose its education. That it needs to rebuild it back to what it once was. Thank you.
5.	As long as transport is provided free and my youngest son would get a place at the same school in 2015. Quality of education is my primary concern.
6.	I support the proposal of a new <u>catholic only</u> faith based school to be built in Rhyl. The catchment areas for both Blessed Edward Jones and St Brigid's confirms the requirements for it to be built in Rhyl, otherwise the cost to LA for school transport will be immense.
7.	It would be a shame to lose both schools as put together the school will be too large.
8.	Moving a school pupil in a less accessible area of school considering weather & traffic conditions is a big thing to consider, congested area makes more risk for students and pupils to be involved in accidents.
9.	I feel my daughter is doing well in Blessed Edward Jones and change to new school would be upsetting.
10.	It appears that there is no thought put to how children with special educational needs will cope with larger schools and extra journey times. Transport only runs for journeys to and from school and not to get a child home during school hours. It would also make it more difficult to attend appointments with doctors etc. around school hours if the school is further away. When do you listen to the pupils? You took the sixth form away, now you want to merge schools.
11.	You're wasting money. Blessed Edward is a great school. Why change it? The more schools the better: not less. If he has to change school I won't be sending him I will pull him out of school full stop. He's got exams soon. It will wreck his education.

12.	At the meeting at Blessed Edward Jones recently, the panel had figures which they estimated about pupil numbers in the future for our High School, which were about 100 pupils lower. As I have 2 younger children I wish to attend this school, I don't think I am the only parent with younger children who have not been taken into account with the council's 'estimated' pupil numbers. Also, we would like to know which sites have been thought of, as most of the parents would be quite interested in the areas.
13.	The teachers and education is very high standard and our granddaughter is happy with the facilities and the environment in Blessed Edward Jones CH School. The school is near enough for us to call in and speak to teachers.
14.	See Q6. I work with families that are most vulnerable in Rhyl. The town is already in decline, please don't move their school. It is the hub of the community. Please listen to the community not just heads of departments or statistics.
15.	I feel that a decision has already been made by the authorities and any objections by parents of both schools will be ignored. We chose Blessed Edward Jones because it is a small local school with a friendly atmosphere and we felt that this will be lost in a bigger High School. (We would have sent our child to Rhyl High School for this).
16.	If a faith school based school is provided more than half an hour away from a child's home I believe it would not be good for the child's wellbeing and therefore restricting the family's choice. As part of the catholic community in Rhyl I believe the LEA should continue to give families a <u>real</u> choice of faith based education otherwise it is discriminating against belief and not giving a choice that every family deserves. If the faith based school is too far from a child's home the choice is restricted (as outlined in Q5). I thought the LEA had the remit to give parents choice not to take them away.

# APPENDIX E

## FINDINGS OF THE PUPIL MEETINGS

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Elin Davies, Learner Voice Champion who works in DCC's 14-19 Network held two meetings with the school council at both schools. The school councils were made up from pupils from years 7 to 11 (and in the case of SB only, 1 pupil from year 12).
- 1.2 The decision to have Elin conduct these meetings was driven by a desire properly to consult with the pupils to obtain their views. Elin works with pupils, not only of this age group but also at the two schools. It was felt, therefore, that her experience would remove at least some of the barriers which might otherwise prevent the pupils from engaging in the process.

### 2. The first meeting

- 2.1 At the first meeting held at SB, 15 pupils (with representatives from years 7 – 11 (and, in the case of SB only, years 12 &13), 1 teacher and 3 representatives from DCC were present.
- 2.2 The first meeting followed the following format:

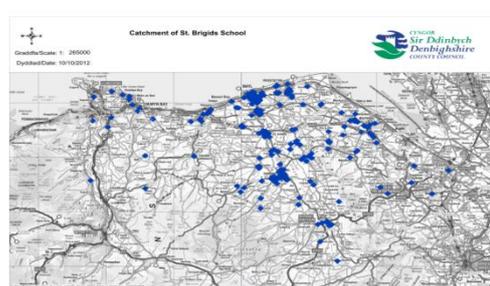
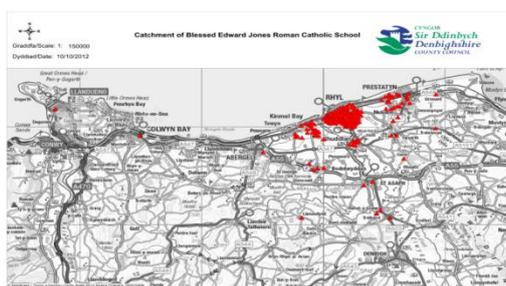
#### Introductions and ice breaker

The pupils participated in an ice-breaking exercise designed to encourage them to sit with someone they wouldn't normally speak with.

#### Presentation

The Pupils were shown a Power point presentation containing the following information:

- At the moment in Denbighshire, there are talks on what Faith education in Denbighshire may look like in the future
- The reason for this is part of the 21st Century Schools Programme
- There won't be any decisions made until a full consultation has been held, at which point all opinions will be taken into account
- We want to know what you think about your school, and what a perfect school would look like
- Denbighshire has 2 secondary faith schools
- Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School – 2012 had 480 pupils
- St Brigid's School – 2012 had 374 pupils
- In December 2012, both in Band 2



What we want to know

- What do you think is important when you decided what school you are going to?
- How far would you be prepared to travel to go to school?
  - > 3 miles
  - 3 > 5 miles
  - 5 > miles

- How would you like to travel to school
  - Walk
  - Car
  - Bus
- How long would you travel to get to school
  - >10 minutes
  - 10 > 20 minutes
  - 20 > 30 minutes
  - 30 > minutes

Activity: The Perfect School:

- Split into groups
- On the paper draw / write what you would like your perfect school to look like

Things to think about:

- The building
- Where it is
- Type of education
- Type of courses available
- How to get there
- How many pupils
- Facilities
- Discussion

The pupils were then asked the following questions:

No	Question
1.	What do you think is important when you decided what school you are going to?
2.	How far would you be prepared to travel to go to school?
3.	How do you travel to school?
4.	How long would you be prepared to travel to school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than 10 mins</li> <li>• Less than 20 mins</li> <li>• Less than 30 mins</li> <li>• Over 30 mins</li> </ul>
5.	Would you like to travel less?

#### Activity: the perfect school

The pupils then undertook an activity which invited them to draw and describe the perfect school.

#### Questions from the pupils

The pupils were invited to ask any questions they had.

#### Final exercise: post cards

The pupils were given post cards inviting them to choose two responses describing the things they consider to be most important when deciding which school to attend.

#### Close

It was explained that there would be a follow up meeting next week at which the pupils will be invited to discuss the ideas they have put forward in more detail.

**3. Post cards**

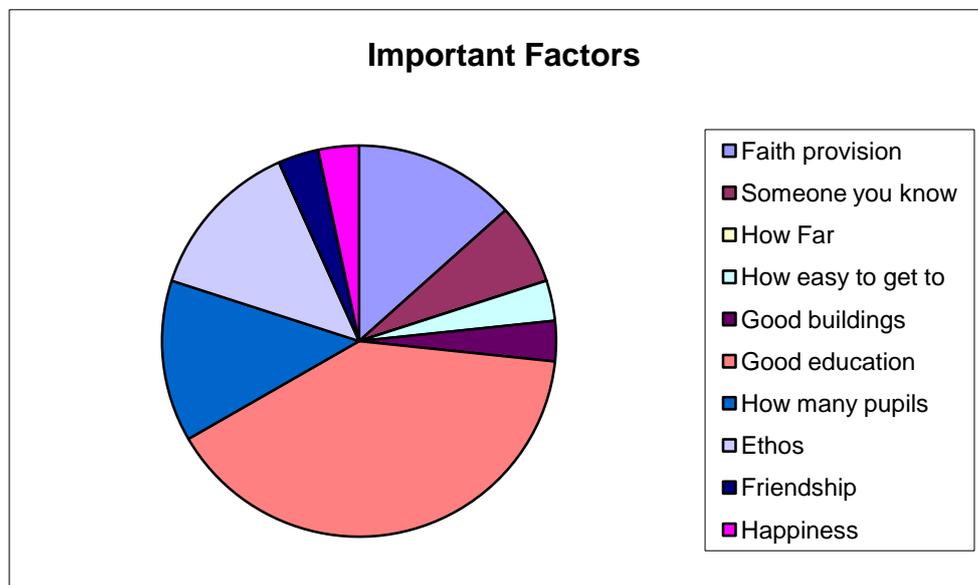
3.1 The post cards contained the following invitation:

“We want to know what are the most important things for you when you decide what school to go to. Please can you tick the two most important factors in the table opposite”

3.2 The options and the responses were as follows:

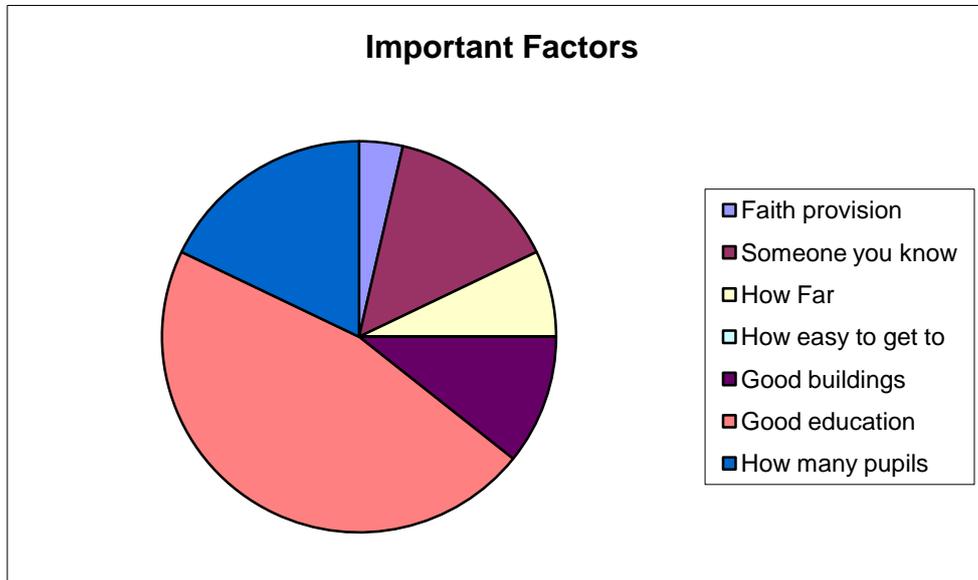
St Brigid's	
Option	Number of responses
Faith Provision	4
Someone you know is at the school	2
How far it is from your home	0
How easy it is to get there	1
How good the buildings are	1
How good the education is	12
How many pupils are in the school	4
<b>Ethos</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Friendship</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Happiness</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Additional categories added by some SB pupils



Blessed Edward Jones	
Option	Number of responses
Faith Provision	1
Someone you know is at the school	4

How far it is from your home	2
How easy it is to get there	0
How good the buildings are	3
How good the education is	13
How many pupils are in the school	5



#### 4. The second meeting

4.1 At the second meeting held at SB, 23 pupils (with representatives from years 7 – 11 (and, in the case of SB only, years 12 &13), 1 teacher and 3 representatives from DCC were present.

4.2 The second meeting followed the following format:

##### Introductions and ice breaker

The pupils were told the reasons for the meeting taking place and the stage the process had reached.

##### Presentation

The pupils were shown a Power point presentation containing the following:

- Following last week's session, want to talk about the things you said to us
- This is part of a very long process, and if the Council decides to hold a full consultation on what Faith Education may look like in future, we'll be back with proposals and we'll want to know what you think about them.

What we want to know:

- *What do you think is important when you decided what school you are going to?*

**SB:**

Happiness, Ethos, Reputation, Atmosphere / Environment  
Distance from home  
Size of school  
A\*-C Grades

**BEJ:** [To follow]

- *How far would you be prepared to travel to go to school?*
  - 3 miles
  - 3 > 5 miles
  - 5 > miles

**SB:** This wasn't an important factor for you when you decide what school to go to, the quality is more important than distance

**BEJ:** [To follow]

- *How would you like to travel to school?*
  - Walk
  - Car
  - Bus

**SB:** The majority of you travel by car or bus to school. Those of you that travel by bus have said that you like seeing your friends before school starts.

- *How long would you travel to get to school?*
  - > 10 minutes
  - 10 > 20 minutes
  - 20 > 30 minutes
  - 30 > minutes

**SB:** The majority travel more than 30 minutes but again this is less important than the quality of the school

**BEJ:** [To follow]

Activity: The Perfect School

Have a look at the combined schools that you all described as perfect (in the first meeting).

#### Important factors post card responses/perfect school

The responses written on the post card at the end of the first meeting were discussed with the pupils. This was followed by a discussion of the ideas for the perfect school. The two schools had produced the following ideas:

See next page:

# Perfect School

Buildings not mobiles

Better Sports Facilities

Religious - Sr Liz

3-19 School

Better Arts Facilities

Classes for each subject

400 pupils



# Perfect School

Modernise Classrooms  
e.g. smart boards

Better Sports Facilities

Better Science Facilities

Full time Nurse

Shelter outside for when it rains

After School Clubs

500-600 pupils

More GCSE courses

Relax rules on mobile phones

Laptop scheme

More Space

More language courses

Better Canteen / Food options



During the second session, where feedback on the first session was given, the students raised that they thought that a perfect school would have a Sixth Form – The reason for this being the fact that they have better relationships with teachers. They know them as students and understand their strengths and weaknesses, and act as a support network . Rhyll 6<sup>th</sup> is a different environment

### Pond and lily pads

The pupils were then asked to participate in an exercise designed to elicit their hopes and fears. A large drawing of a pond was placed on the floor and the pupils were given pieces of paper in the shape of a lily pad. They were asked to write their hopes and or fears (either relating to the faith review or more broadly) on one side of the 'lily pad' and to place them face down on the 'pond'. The pupils could therefore communicate openly in the knowledge that other pupils would not see what they had written.

### Questions from the pupils

The pupils were invited to ask any questions they had.

### Close

The meeting was brought to a close.

## **5. Hopes and fears (Lily pads)**

The contents of the lily pads from each school were collected and the results were as follows:

<b>St Brigid's</b>	
<b>Hopes</b>	<b>Fears</b>
I hope that St Brigid's can grow as a school independently	I fear that the tradition of St Brigid's will be lost forever
I hope that the money to be spent will be spent evenly	I fear that the faith provision of the school will be lost
	I fear that if the school was to joining with BEJ there would be a division between the two schools and cause problems as I know that our school is very different to BEJ
I hope that us leavers will still have St Brigid's to come back to in years to come	I fear that by trying to change us, it will ruin what we have at St Brigid's
I hope that St Brigid's will stay the same and not merge	I fear people won't listen and merge St Brigid's anyway
Hope that all the changes we want actually happen	
Building not mobiles	
I hope that the school does not close down. I hope that I get good grades for GCSE	
For the school to still be on the current site because this is where St Brigid's is and always has been. This is the heart of the school	
The successful St Brigid's ethos is supported so that it can continue to provide a great educational experience for another generation	That St Brigid's will be closed / merged to satisfy new ideas etc. at the expense of a good school and opportunities for young people
The St Brigid's family will remain	St Brigid's ethos and close knot will get lost if we merge schools
	There will not be a friendly St Brigid's to

	return to – Our experience will almost become a void
Get into Edinburgh Uni.	St Brigid's School will not be here for future generations St Brigid's will change
To be happy	St Brigid's being closed down
Staying the same	Moving in the middle of GCSEs
All the changes if the school was to merge would be accomplished	
Better car park and facilities	
More playground equipment	
New building	
St Brigid's will stay the same. Be able to send my children here in future. Take ethos with me everywhere I go	Council have the power to go ahead with the merger, regardless of our opinions

<b>Blessed Edward Jones</b>	
<b>Hopes</b>	<b>Fears</b>
I hope there is going to be a sixth form in the school	
Very advances with good facilities More variety of courses	Some teachers may lose their job
To have good GCSE's	Bad Education
I hope that this school et a sixth form again	
	Teachers always off school – not learning as much off supply teacher
	Starting options in yr. 9 it's too early
Have help choosing options	Starting options in year 9
A minimum of C in all GCSE	To do bad and fail in my GCSE's
Better classrooms	Horrible teachers
Better education better chances for jobs in the future	With more tech. and improvements more bullying may occur
The education gets better	If two schools come together there is more pupils which likely leads to bullying
To do well in Science and English Good facilities	Fears in Welsh supply teachers Failing
	Want better supply teachers
Good facilities	Welsh – our permanent teacher is never in
	Too many supply teachers > not specified to the subject they cover > fail GCSE due to missed lessons

## 6. Additional comments (St Brigid's)

At the end of the second meeting a pupil at SB presented Elin Davies with a bundle of papers upon which a group of year 8 pupils had written their views on 5 questions. It is not known who devised the question. The questions together with the responses are listed below:

1. Are you for or against [the merger]? Why?	
For/Don't mind	Against
It would give us better facilities and new uniforms	The primary school might go
As long as we get an education it doesn't matter where we are or who we're with	SB is one of a kind and I would like it to stay that way
I like SB the way it is but I don't really mind	I love SB as it's small and has control over the problems
We will get much better facilities and gym stuff	The people are rough
	I like SB a lot
	It could be very expensive
	I don't like going to a big school and I think the school is perfect right now and doesn't need to change. There is no point just have 2 catholic schools not 1
	Came to SB to receive a good education and do not want to merge with a normal state school
	There's no need to change anything because everything is fine how it is. Also there would be more fights with a big school
	SB is a small family school and if it merges there will be loads of people and I might not be able to travel somewhere else near Rhyl
	I don't want it to change at all
	I like the school the way it is
	I like SB as it is & some of the BEJ lot are rough. SB has a family atmosphere
	I've been here for years and I like it
	SB is perfectly fine without the merger. Also I was bullied by the people who go to BEJ
	I don't want to go to school with a bunch of chavs
	SB is a wonderful school as it is
	SB is a good school and like a family
	I dislike a lot of people in BEJ. Students at SB and students at BEJ are completely different people. I think SB pupils would get bullied etc. as they are different
	It is not fair having to share our school
	It is not fair on us
	The pupils in BEJ aren't very nice and would probably bully us. People in the future will not be able to go to our Primary. Our school view is amazing and I wouldn't change it for anything.
2. Would you go to a merged school or look to go somewhere else?	
Merged school	Somewhere else/Don't know
It could mean better buildings and equipment	No idea where I'd go
I would go to a merged school for reasons above (as long as we get an education)	Probably not go to the merged school
I would go to a new school, you can make new friends	Wouldn't go to a merged school
I would probably go to the merged school as all	Wouldn't go to a merged school

my friends are there	
I would go and if I liked it I would stay: if I didn't like it I would move to a better school	Mold Alun
I would look at somewhere else but would most likely stay	A different school like Denbigh High, Prestatyn High. The school wouldn't feel the same like it is now
	I'd definitely move school if it happens as soon as I hear about it (probably to Wirral Grammar)
	I wouldn't go to a merged school. I would move somewhere else
	I'd look to go somewhere else
	I'm not sure; if I did I'm not sure I'd like it
	I'd look to go to a different school
	I'd look to go somewhere else
	I would move school
	I'd go somewhere else
	I would go to a different school instead
	I'd probably go to another school
	I would go somewhere else
	I would not go to a merged school and if SB got more merged then I think I would not be here for much longer
	I don't know because it depends on where it is
	If the school was to merge I would have to go to the nearest catholic school for free transport
<b>3. If it had to merge, what would your priorities be?</b>	
New sporting facilities	
Better technology, a better music studio and no mobiles [classrooms] – just a big building	
A not modern uniform as that can cause bullying. Fancy new equipment and classrooms	
New uniform, sports facilities, music facilities and larger buildings instead of mobiles	
New uniform, the same 'mobies' no stairs, better technology	
I wouldn't be here so I wouldn't care	
Uniform, building structure, family – it won't have a family feel and bullying	
New uniform, closer to Rhyl, have a gym, bigger dining room, gym equipment and sixth-form	
A much better art department: everything else is already brilliant	
Better uniform (trousers) and all the classrooms in a building not a mobile	
Better gym and music studio and have them in a proper building	
Better art class and art supply, gym hall canteen and I would like an actual building not mobiles	
Better gym facilities, better/nicer uniform, better music facilities and make it one big building not all little mobiles because they're a little silly	
I would like it to be just like this school, no change except maybe more gym equipment but that is it!	
A big sports hall or gym or a bigger art gallery or a bigger art room	

A sports hall and proper classrooms	
One building no cabins, new music room, different uniform (trousers for girls)	
A new hall, a gym, bigger classrooms and the same uniform	
New, updated science block. No new uniform as we have spent a lot of money on the current one	
Proper classrooms, bigger studios, change of uniform. Though I still want a tie, skirt and a blazer.	
Better art facilities and music studio	
To go to a good school	
I would like nothing really, if it was to merge I would move school 100%!	
I need this school to get the education I need because for me there is nowhere else.	
Bigger place and not mobiles	
Modern equipment and simple uniform	
<b>4. If it could be located anywhere in Denbighshire where would you like it to be?</b>	
Near or in Rhuddlan	3
Near or in Prestatyn	2
Near or in Rhuthin	5
Near or in Denbigh	13
Near or in St Asaph	6
Near or in Bodelwyddan	6
Near or in Rhyl	2
Not closer to or in Rhyl	2
Not Bodelwyddan	1
<b>5. Any other comments</b>	
We won't know everyone like we do now. I don't want to have to wait outside for the teacher to come (raining, snowing)	
Teds – rough school. Don't merge	
BEJ almost got closed down because it was so bad. It would be a real shame to see SB go A REAL SHAME	
Everyone should know what's happening instead of just a few letters not explaining what is happening	
I really don't see why people are so against it	
I don't know why we would have to maybe merge with teds. I don't think that we would get the family atmosphere with a bigger school, we would not get that anywhere else	

No mobiles because they are small, if you stamp on the floor it makes such a noise. Big building and non-primary. A six form college. Lots more pupils
I don't want this school to merge at all, it feels like a second home full of friends. I don't want that to change ☹
I am against it [the merger]. I don't know what will happen to the A levels, the sixth formers, the Primary and us!
Nobody wants it to happen from SB or from BEJ
I don't want it to happen. I would like it to be where it is. I don't want it to happen
Please don't merge the school as our education is important and merging will not help this. Also what about the boarders? Where will they go, I mean they live here. If we merge, you could ruin their education. PLEASE DON'T MERGE
Please don't merge the school ☹
I would like to know what would happen to the Primary School, will they get rid of them or will they build a new Primary School?
I strongly disagree, I don't think we should merge, it's a very bad idea. If I was in year 11 then I would stay here when it merged but I would enjoy school as much. SB is great and has an amazing rep. Teds is bad and nearly go shut down
If this school go any more merged would we have to share classes? What would the Denbigh High/any other schools where?
I hope it won't close down and I don't like mobiles
28 million why not 14 million to each school?
Spend the money on us
Family ethos
Killing a family
Proud to be Brigid's
Travel (transport)
Community
Some wouldn't go to the new school
Close knit family
3 – 19 years old (we will lose this)
Uniform, teachers, boarding?