



# Formal Consultation Document

## Proposal for a new Joint Faith Based School for North Denbighshire

## Contents

No	Description	Page No
<b>Introduction</b>		2
1.	Context	2
2.	Summary of proposal	2
3.	Consultation Process	4
4.	Power to make a decision	6
<b>Background Information</b>		7
5.	Background to the proposal	7
6.	Current Provision	7
7.	Educational attainment	13
8.	Alternative provision	18
9.	Primary provision	25
10.	Special educational needs provision	28
<b>The Proposal</b>		30
11.	What we are proposing	30
12.	The proposal in detail	32
13.	Creating and maintaining the right ethos	34
14.	Admission arrangements	35
15.	How will the final site location be determined?	35
16.	What are the transport implications of this proposal?	36
17.	What are the staffing implications of this proposal?	37
18.	What are the financial implications of this proposal?	37
19.	How would any new school buildings be financed?	39
20.	What are the disadvantages of this proposal?	40
21.	Alternative options	41
22.	Explanation of the statutory process	47
23.	Community and equality assessment	48
24.	Response proforma	

## Introduction

### 1. Context

1.1 Denbighshire County Council, the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham, the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and the Trustees of the St Brigid's Trust (together the **Promoters**) have undertaken and completed an informal consultation with regard to how future provision for secondary faith education in north Denbighshire could be provided.

**(Please note the inclusion of the Trustees of the St Brigid's Trust as a Promoter is dependent upon support from the Trustees to this proposal. If support is not forthcoming they will be deleted as a Promoter)**

1.2 As a consequence of the informal consultation exercise the Promoters wish formally to consult with all interested parties on a proposal which they consider would strengthen future provision.

1.3 The proposal that:

- a. **Denbighshire County Council would close Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014; and**
- b. **The Catholic Diocese of Wrexham, the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph together with the Trustees of St Brigid's would establish a new Anglican & Catholic Faith Voluntary Aided School serving the communities of Denbigh, Rhyl and surrounding areas on the existing sites from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.**

1.4 Throughout this document the new Anglican & Catholic Faith School referred to in **paragraph 1.3 b** above is called the **New Dual-Site Faith School**.

1.5 The Promoters will, at a later date, make a separate proposal to construct a new building for the New Dual-Site Faith School on a new site in the Bodelwyddan/Rhuddlan area. The location of the new site will be determined at a future date and will be the subject of a separate formal consultation with all stakeholders.

1.6 No decision will be made on location at this stage.

1.7 This proposal should be considered separately to the consultation undertaken by St Brigid's Trust to consider the closure of the Boarding element of the School as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013.

### 2. Summary of proposal

#### First Phase

- 2.1 This formal consultation relates to a proposal to create the New Dual-Site Faith School to serve both the North Denbighshire area and to accommodate pupils from neighbouring authorities who wish to be educated at a faith school. Throughout this document, this proposal is called the **Current Proposal**.
- 2.2 If the Current Proposal is agreed and implemented the First Phase would see the existing Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014. The Dual Site Faith School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September and would initially use the existing buildings in Denbigh and Rhyl. The Rhyl site (the former Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School) would offer 11-16 provision whilst the Denbigh site (the former St Brigid's School) would offer 3-18 provision. Throughout this document the creation of the New Dual-Site Faith School is called the **First Phase**.

### **Second Phase**

- 2.3 The next phase would see the New Dual-Site Faith School consolidated on a new site in the Bodelwyddan/Rhuddlan area. Throughout this document the movement of the New Dual-Site Faith School onto a new site is called the **Second Phase** and the school operating from the new site is called the **Single-Site Faith School**.
- 2.4 As the change envisaged by the Second Phase would involve the location of the New Dual-Site Faith School moving by over a mile, a similar consultation process would be required. The timescale for the publication of any such process is dependent on the progression of the Current Proposal but the required formal consultation is expected to commence by no later than the summer of 2015. It is anticipated that the project to commence building a Single-Site Faith School would begin during the 2016/17 financial year. These two dates are dependent upon the implementation date for the First Phase of the Current Proposal (as set out in **paragraph 2.2** above).
- 2.5 The age range of the Single-Site Faith School would be confirmed during the Second Phase consultation. Within this the main options would be whether the school should serve a 3 – 16 age range or an 11-16 age range. The size would also be determined during this Second Phase consultation and it is envisaged that this would be in the region of 600 – 750 pupils on the new site.
- 2.6 The post 16 provision will be provided predominantly by the existing Rhyl and Prestatyn VI partnership. A further consultation would confirm how such provision would be delivered. It is envisaged that the majority of courses would be provided via the existing Rhyl and Prestatyn Sixth Partnership which delivers provision at Coleg Llandrillo in Rhyl and Prestatyn High School. The Single-Site Faith School would host a small range of courses as part of the partnership to ensure that elements of post 16 can be delivered by the faith providers.

### 3. Consultation Process

3.1 This formal consultation process relates to the Current Proposal and the First Phase (the Second Phase will be the subject of a separate consultation process). This formal consultation is being carried out to ensure that all relevant parties have an opportunity to contribute to this important subject.

3.2 This formal consultation document has been sent to a wide range of potential consultees including:

- a. Conwy County Borough Council;
- b. Flintshire County Council;
- c. Catholic Diocese of Wrexham;
- d. Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph;
- e. Chair of The Trustees of the St Brigid's Trust;
- f. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following schools:
  - i) Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School;
  - ii) St Brigid's School;
  - iii) Rhyl High School;
  - iv) Prestatyn High School;
  - v) Denbigh High School; and
  - vi) St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School,
- g. Parents, teachers and ancillary staff of Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School;
- h. Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Denbighshire Schools;
- i. Coleg Llandrillo;
- j. Rhyl and Prestatyn VI and Dyffryn Clwyd Learning Partnership;
- k. Independent nursery providers in the Denbigh area;
- l. Parents of pupils attending the following Primary Schools in Denbighshire:
  - i) Ysgol Mair RC Primary School, Rhyl
  - ii) St Asaph VP and Ysgol Esgob Morgan, St Asaph
  - iii) Ysgol Trefnant VA, Trefnant
- m. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following Primary Schools in Conwy:
  - i) Ysgol St Joseph's RC, Colwyn Bay
  - ii) Ysgol y Plas, Llanelian
  - iii) Ysgol Betws yn Rhos
  - iv) Ysgol Llanddulas
  - v) Ysgol St George
- n. Chair of Governors and School Council of the following Primary Schools in Flintshire:-
  - i) St Winefrede's in Holywell
  - ii) Ysgol yr Esgob, Caerwys
  - iii) Nannerch VC School
  - iv) Ysgol y Llan, Whitford
  - v) Ysgol Trelawnyd
  - vi) St Mary's, Nercwys.

- o. Denbighshire Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships;
- p. All Denbighshire County Councillors;
- q. Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing areas affected by the proposal;
- r. Rhyl Town Council;
- s. Denbigh Town Council;
- t. The Welsh Government;
- v. Estyn;
- w. The local Communities First Partnership (in relevant areas);
- x. Relevant teaching and staff trades unions;
- y. North Wales Consortium
- z. Taith
- aa. North Wales Police Commissioner

3.3 This formal consultation document has also been published on the Denbighshire County Council website [www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk)<sup>i</sup>

3.4 The formal consultation period in respect of the Current Proposal will take place between 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

3.5 A series of formal consultation events will take place during this period, details of which can be found in **paragraph \*\*** on **page \*\*** below. These include open workshops for parents to be informed further of the Current Proposal which will provide the opportunity for an open question and answer session around the various elements of the Current Proposal.

3.6 Events will also be held with children and young people at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School. Open evenings will also be arranged to gather the views of parents from primary schools which are expected to be impacted by the Current Proposal.

3.7 A supplementary version<sup>ii</sup> of this formal consultation document has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people better to understand and engage with the formal consultation.

3.8 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views on the Current Proposal at the events mentioned above or to put your views in writing. Responses should be sent to Modernising Education Programme Team, Denbighshire County Council, County Hall, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN or by e-mail to [modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk](mailto:modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk) by no later than **22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013**.

- 3.9 At the end of the formal consultation period all views received will be collated and considered before any recommendation is made to proceed to the next stage and publish formal proposals.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet will consider a report on the outcome of this formal consultation (including a recommendation from Council officers) on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 3.11 Approval of any recommendation may allow the proposal to be published by way of a statutory notice in October 2013.

#### **4. Power to make a decision**

- 4.1 It is important to note that any decision to proceed with the Current Proposal will be a joint decision between the Proposers.
- 4.2 Denbighshire County Council is permitted<sup>iii</sup> to publish proposals to discontinue a voluntary aided or foundation school; as are the Governors<sup>iv</sup>. Accordingly, the formal publication of the closure of the two existing schools may be carried out by the council following the correct statutory procedure.
- 4.3 The proposal to establish a new voluntary aided school will be published by the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham, the Church in Wales Diocese of St Asaph and St Brigid's Trust, in partnership with Denbighshire County Council<sup>v</sup>. Under existing legislation whilst Denbighshire County Council could seek to establish a new voluntary aided school; it is expected that this will continue to be the case when new legislation comes in later this year; it is considered appropriate that such provision is planned in partnership with the Diocesan authorities who will be responsible for the operation of the school. The Council's role in the establishment of a new voluntary aided school would be advisory/supportive. This means that the proposal relating to the formation of the New Dual-Site Faith School will be published by the Diocesan authorities and St Brigid's Trust, in partnership with Denbighshire.

## **Background Information**

### **5. Background to the proposal**

- 5.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Modernising Education Policy Framework<sup>vi</sup> in January 2009 to provide a platform upon which to review existing school provision.
- 5.2 The council is committed to providing a first class education for all children and young people in the county. As part of this commitment, the Council has agreed that 'modernising education provision' is a priority because we recognise the importance of having school buildings, learning environments and resources that meet the needs of 21st century Wales.
- 5.3 We know that we have to change and modernise education provision in the county, as improvements in education cannot be sustained without changes to the way education is provided. Schools need to be able to provide the best possible learning experience so that children and young people in Denbighshire have the widest opportunities available to them and are able to reach their full potential.
- 5.4 In November 2012 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation on the future of faith based education in north Denbighshire. The informal consultation document<sup>vii</sup> highlighted a number of issues that needed to be addressed to achieve long term sustainability. These included:
- a. the need to ensure that future provision could sustain and safeguard standards of education;
  - b. improving the learning environment at both Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School;
  - c. the removal of mobile accommodation at St Brigid's School; and
  - d. strengthening the leadership and management capacity at both schools.
- 5.5 The informal consultation ended on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and the Promoters have carefully considered the issues raised during this period. In total over 115 letters and emails<sup>viii</sup> were received from stakeholders together with 178 questionnaires completed by parents. The findings of the informal consultation exercise have been compiled by the council and have been published on its website as part of the decision making process.

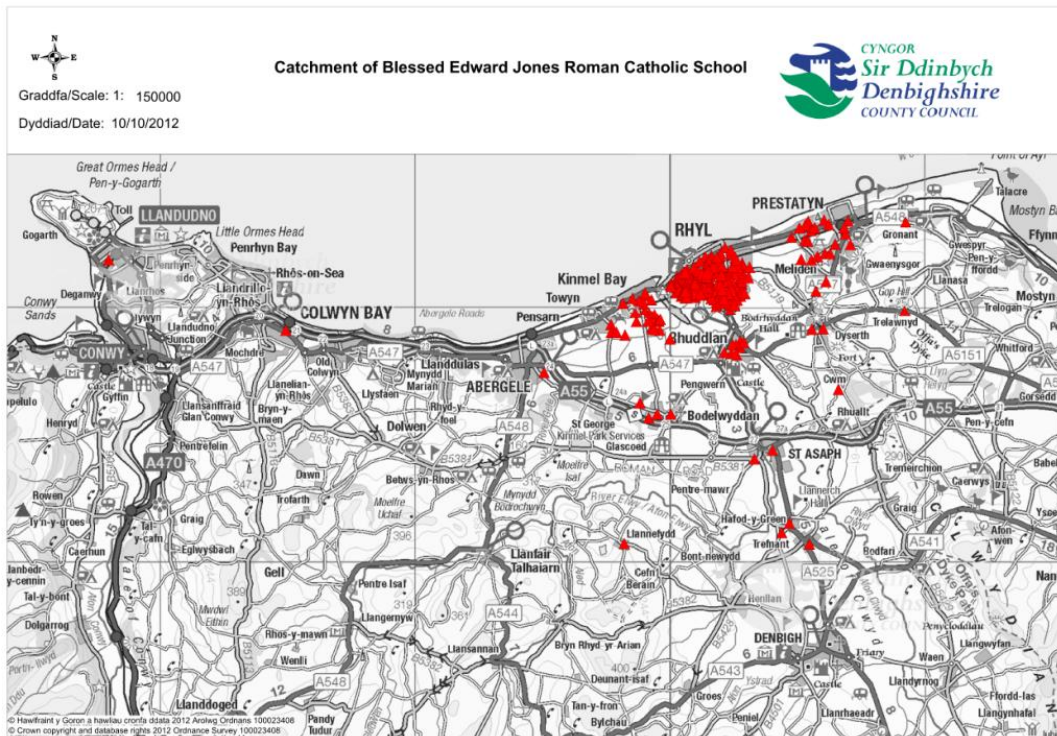
### **6. Current Provision**

- 6.1 This section details the current provision at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School. The section will also provide comparable information on schools at both primary and secondary level which are likely to be affected by the Current Proposal.



## Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School

- 6.2 The current Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School is situated on Cefndy Road, Rhyl and serves an age range of 11-16. It is a Voluntary Aided School under the authority of the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham; predominately serving children wishing to receive a Catholic and/or Christian education in the town of Rhyl. The school also serves the surrounding areas as illustrated in the diagram below which shows the postcode location of the home address for each pupil.



- 6.3 As of January 2013 the Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School had 499 full time pupils. The pupil numbers have fluctuated over recent years as illustrated below:

Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
408	466	485	480	499

- 6.4 As of January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
84	78	120	137	80

- 6.5 The council's forecast of future pupil rolls, based on current pupil primary pupils in schools who normally transfer, suggests that a drop in future pupil numbers will occur at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
486	433	395	410	394

6.6 The capacity of the school building has been calculated at 659 pupils. As of January 2013 the school had 160 surplus (empty) places; equivalent to 24.3% of the total capacity. The percentage of surplus places at the school has been impacted by the decision to close post 16 provision at the school in 2010.

6.7 Educational Standards at the school have seen significant improvements in recent years. The school’s last Estyn Inspection was in October 2012<sup>ix</sup> and the inspection report in summary commented as follows:

**“Current performance**

*Good features in the school’s current performance include:*

- *a trend of improvement at both key stage 3 and key stage 4 that is being well maintained;*
- *key stage 4 qualifications that include English and mathematics, which are significantly better than the average in similar schools, now places the school in the top quartile and significantly above modelled expectations;*
- *the development of pupils’ literacy skills across the curriculum;*
- *a strong community ethos;*
- *lessons that well planned and teacher marking that provides pupils with a clear understanding of their progress; and*
- *very good pupil behaviour in lessons and around the school.*

**Prospects for improvement**

*The school’s prospects for improvement are good because:*

- *the headteacher has a clear vision, and high expectations for the school, which are well understood by all staff and pupils and are leading to higher standards;*
- *more challenging targets are now being set for raising standards;*
- *the restructuring of the senior leadership team ensures that there is strategic oversight of all key matters of the school’s work to improve standards;*
- *governors support and challenge the school effectively;*
- *the school works well with a wide range of partners and agencies to enhance the curriculum; and*
- *the budget deficit is being effectively tackled and the school is on track to pay off the deficit.”*

Key Question	Blessed Edward Jones Inspection Judgement
1. How good are the outcomes?	Good
2. How good is provision?	Good
3. How good are leadership and	Good

management?	
The school's current performance	Good
The school's prospects for improvement	Good

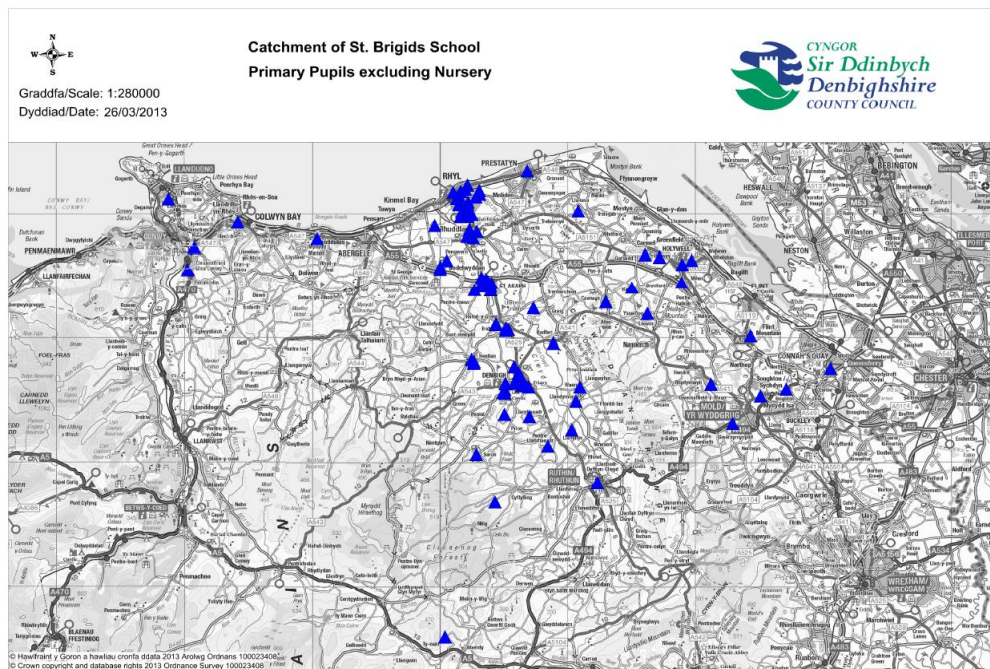
**Key:**

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

**St Brigid's School**

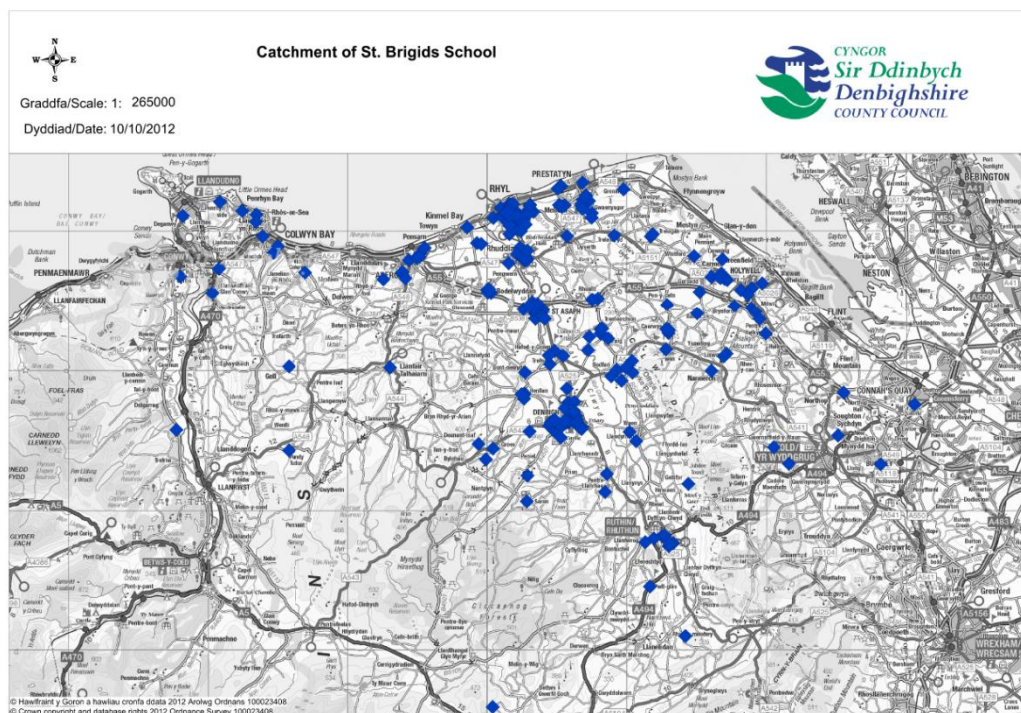
6.8 The current St Brigid's School is situated just outside of the town of Denbigh on the A543 road. The school is recognised as a middle school which serves an age range of 3-18. The current sixth form provision is provided in conjunction with the Dyffryn Clwyd partnership, which also includes Denbigh High School, Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ruthin, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St Asaph, Deeside College and Coleg Llandrillo. The school serves predominately children wishing to receive a Catholic and/or Christian education and serves a wide catchment area. The main towns from where pupils are drawn are Denbigh, Rhyl, Prestatyn, St Asaph, Holywell and Rhuddlan as illustrated in the diagram below. It is worth noting that although the school is located in Denbigh the immediate Denbigh area accounts for less than a third of pupils with a similar proportion of pupils based in the Prestatyn/Rhuddlan/Rhyl area.

**Location of Primary Pupils**





## Location of Secondary Pupils



6.9 As of January 2013 the school had across all ranges 490 full time pupils with a further 10 part-time nursery pupils. The pupil numbers have remained consistent over recent years as illustrated below:

	Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Primary Reception to Year 6</b>	129	134	133	137	130
<b>Year 7 to Year 11</b>	284	283	281	286	282
<b>Years 12/13</b>	70	58	72	88	78
<b>TOTAL</b>	483	475	486	511	490
<b>TOTAL Secondary</b>	354	341	353	374	360

6.10 As of January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
10	12	14	12	21	19	27	25
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	
55	58	55	57	57	46	32	

6.11 The Council's forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that pupil numbers will remain consistent at the school as illustrated below:

Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
366	362	357	353	350

6.12 The capacity of the school building, following representations from the Governing Body, has now been calculated at 121 pupils for 4-11 provision and 367 pupils for 11-18 provision leading to an overall capacity of 488 pupils. At January 2013 the school had a deficit (over capacity) of 9 places or 7.4% of the total capacity at primary level and a surplus (empty) of 7 places or 1.9% of the total capacity at secondary level.

6.13 The school's last Estyn Inspection was undertaken in May 2010<sup>x</sup> and was based on the previous inspection framework. At present inspections are undertaken on a 6 yearly basis and based on such arrangements the next inspection will take place no later than May 2016. The inspection report in summary commented as follows:

*“While St Brigid’s School has several good features, it also has a number of important shortcomings which need attention.*

*Among the school’s good features are the:*

- *acting headteacher’s vision for school improvement;*
- *progress made by learners in the primary department;*
- *teaching and assessment in the primary department; and*
- *support and guidance for learners in the primary department.*

*However, there are shortcomings in the progress made by a significant minority of pupils in the secondary department. There are shortcomings, also, in teaching and assessment at KS3, KS4 and in the sixth form, and in leadership and management at all levels throughout the school.*

*While the school has made good progress in several areas since the time the school was last inspected, there are important key issues which have not been addressed since that time. Particular shortcomings that remain are:*

- *the variation in the processes of self-evaluation;*
- *the inconsistency in sharing good teaching practices across the curriculum;*
- *the constraints imposed by the school’s accommodation; and*
- *standards of information and communication technology (ICT) across the curriculum.*

*As a result of these important shortcomings, the school is not yet moving forward sufficiently so as to fulfil its true potential.”*

Key Question	St Brigid's Inspection grade - 2010
1. How well do learners achieve?	3
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	3
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	3
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	3
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	3
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	3
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	3

**Key:**

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

**7. Educational attainment**

- 7.1 In making comparisons between the educational attainment between Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School, it is important to acknowledge the differences in the demographic backgrounds to the pupils who attend both schools.
- 7.2 Nationally, the educational achievement of girls is usually higher than boys. Until recently St Brigid's School did not admit boys into the school and at present there are a higher proportion of girls attending the school than boys. This may impact on comparisons in performance. Therefore for valid comparisons in the tables below the performance for girls is used as the main indicator.
- 7.3 In addition, it is also acknowledged that there is a link between educational performance and free school meals take up within schools. This link acknowledges the range of social backgrounds within schools and the impact that this may have on overall academic achievement.

- 7.4 To assist local authorities in understanding academic performance schools are categorised in families which are set by the Welsh Government and take into account the percentage of pupils at each school:
- eligible for Free School Meals;
  - living in areas classed in the most 20% deprived areas in Wales;
  - with special educational needs; and
  - whose first language is not English or Welsh.
- 7.5 The following tables seek to give an understanding of the relative performance of the schools against their respective families, girls' performance, local authority and national performance.

**St. Brigid's School & Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High **KS3** GIRLS' attainment**

**Percentage of all (male and female) pupils who have reached the expected level, 2012** *The level on the National Curriculum scale that the majority of pupils are expected to achieve by the end of the Key Stage. At the end of Key Stage 3 this is level 5*

	Core Subject Indicator	English	Maths	Science
SB	91.20%	91.20%	96.50%	96.50%
SB Family	86.80%	91.40%	91.90%	94.80%
BEJ	59.10%	65.20%	75.80%	83.30%
BEJ Family	61.80%	69.10%	73.70%	79.70%
Denbighshire	71.90%	77.60%	82.00%	85.30%
Wales	72.50%	79.30%	81.10%	83.60%

**Percentage of female pupils who have reached the expected level - Core subject indicator** *achieving at least level 5 in English or Welsh (first language), mathematics and science in combination.*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	*	*	*	*	97.70%
SB Family (Girls)	81.90%	85.80%	85.30%	87.70%	90.40%
BEJ Girls	53.80%	43.50%	59.10%	58.70%	62.70%
BEJ Family (Girls)	52.10%	56.00%	58.70%	67.10%	70.60%
Denbighshire Girls	65.30%	62.40%	67.90%	70.10%	77.80%
Wales Girls	64.50%	66.20%	69.00%	73.30%	78.20%

\* No data relating to this information was available on My Local School website

**Percentage of female pupils who have reached the expected level (5) in English**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	93.10%	98.20%	89.50%	87.90%	91.20%
SB Family (Girls)	91.90%	94.70%	92.70%	94.90%	95.50%
BEJ Girls	66.70%	52.20%	70.50%	73.90%	71.20%
BEJ Family (Girls)	67.20%	67.80%	70.10%	78.60%	78.70%
Denbighshire Girls	76.60%	74.80%	80.70%	81.20%	84.70%
Wales Girls	77.30%	78.30%	80.10%	82.90%	86.40%

**Percentage of female pupils who have reached the expected level (5) in Maths**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	87.90%	94.70%	98.20%	89.70%	96.50%
SB Family (Girls)	87.60%	89.80%	90.60%	90.80%	93.20%
BEJ Girls	71.80%	56.50%	63.60%	71.70%	74.60%
BEJ Family (Girls)	63.60%	64.30%	70.60%	76.30%	78.00%
Denbighshire Girls	76.60%	70.80%	76.90%	78.60%	83.90%
Wales Girls	74.10%	74.90%	77.40%	80.10%	83.80%

**Female pupils who have reached the expected level (5) in Science**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	91.40%	94.70%	93.00%	87.90%	96.50%
SB Family (Girls)	89.90%	92.70%	92.50%	93.90%	95.90%
BEJ Girls	66.70%	54.30%	63.60%	65.20%	83.10%
BEJ Family (Girls)	65.40%	70.50%	72.60%	79.20%	84.80%
Denbighshire Girls	77.50%	74.20%	77.80%	80.90%	87.80%
Wales Girls	75.90%	77.50%	80.10%	83.40%	87.20%

**St Brigid's School & Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School **KS4**  
GIRLS' attainment**

**Percentage of female pupils achieving the level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and Maths**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	67.30%	77.60%	75.00%	75.40%	71.90%
SB Family (Girls)	70.00%	78.20%	76.80%	78.10%	76.70%
BEJ Girls	48.50%	32.60%	23.10%	31.60%	35.00%
BEJ Family (Girls)	30.70%	28.90%	37.80%	37.00%	36.10%
Denbighshire Girls	45.70%	52.20%	49.40%	55.40%	59.70%
Wales Girls	49.60%	51.30%	53.10%	54.00%	55.50%



### **Average capped points score**

*Approved for pre-16 use in Wales for each female pupil.*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	*	*	366	369	390
SB Family (Girls)	*	*	369	373	382
BEJ Girls	*	*	275	266	318
BEJ Family (Girls)	*	*	286	291	311
Denbighshire Girls	*	*	316	334	356
Wales Girls	*	*	319	325	338

*\*measure introduced 2010*

### **Percentage of pupils achieving the level 2 threshold equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at Grade A\*-C.**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	83.60%	81.60%	92.90%	94.70%	96.50%
SB Family (Girls)	81.80%	85.50%	86.70%	88.50%	91.50%
BEJ Girls	57.60%	37.00%	48.70%	47.40%	77.50%
BEJ Family (Girls)	46.00%	47.90%	60.40%	62.60%	72.80%
Denbighshire Girls	57.70%	63.90%	68.60%	77.20%	88.70%
Wales Girls	63.50%	66.20%	68.90%	72.10%	77.60%

### **Percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator Percentage of pupils achieving at least a GCSE at grade A\*-C (or equivalent qualification) in each of English or Welsh first language, Mathematics and Science.**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	69.10%	77.60%	75.00%	75.40%	71.90%
SB Family (Girls)	68.60%	76.90%	75.40%	75.00%	73.50%
BEJ Girls	51.50%	34.80%	23.10%	31.60%	35.00%
BEJ Family (Girls)	27.50%	27.00%	35.10%	34.50%	34.30%
Denbighshire Girls	45.40%	50.20%	48.70%	53.40%	58.00%
Wales Girls	47.90%	49.50%	51.10%	52.00%	52.80%

### **Percentage of pupils achieving the level 1 threshold equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at Grade A\*- G.**

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB Girls	94.50%	93.90%	100.00%	96.50%	98.20%
SB Family (Girls)	97.00%	98.30%	98.70%	97.80%	98.70%

<b>BEJ Girls</b>	84.80%	91.30%	92.30%	84.20%	90.00%
<b>BEJ Family (Girls)</b>	80.40%	84.50%	86.80%	87.70%	91.20%
<b>Denbighshire Girls</b>	86.90%	92.20%	91.30%	93.20%	94.80%
<b>Wales Girls</b>	89.80%	91.00%	92.00%	92.20%	93.80%

7.6 The following table summarises the above results. This shows that both schools have performed well at certain times and that St Brigid's School has performed better more of the time than Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School. However, both schools could improve their performances in respect of their respective family average performances.

<b>Attainment Level</b>	<b>Blessed Edward</b>	<b>St Brigid's</b>
2012 CSI, Eng, Maths & Science (KS3 L5) <b>ALL PUPILS (BOYS AND GIRLS)</b>	Below the Family attainment in CSI and Eng but above the Family attainment in Maths and Science	Above the Family attainment in CSI, Maths and Science and almost level in English
Girls reaching level 5 in English KS3 from 2008 - 2012	Below the family average in all but 2010	Below the family average in the last 3 years (but above in 2008 and 2009)
Girls reaching level 5 in Maths KS3 from 2008 - 2012	Below the family average in all but 2008	Above the family average in all but 2011
Girls reaching level 5 in Science KS3 from 2008 - 2012	Below the family average in all but 2008	Above the family average in all but 2011
Girls reaching level 2 KS4 (including Eng and Maths) from 2008 - 2012	Below the family average in the last 3 years	Below the Family attainment in all 5 years
Average capped points score for girls from 2010 - 2012	Below the family average in all but 2012	Below the family average in all but 2012
Girls reaching level 2 threshold (equivalent to 5 A*-C at GCSE)	Below the family average for 3 out of the 5 years	Above the family average for 4 out of the 5 years

from 2008 - 2012		
Girls reaching the CSI (at least grade <b>A*-C at GCSE in Eng, Maths &amp; Science</b> ) from 2008 - 2012	Above the family average in 3 out of the 5 years	Above the family average in 3 out of the 5 years
Girls achieving level 1 ( <b>5 GCSE's at A*-G</b> ) from 2008 - 2012	Below the family average in the last 2 years but above average in the previous 3	Below the family average in 4 of the 5 years; and below in the last 2 years

7.7 Further data analysis on the respective performance of both schools can also be found on the Welsh Government website as follows:

<http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk/>

## 8. Alternative provision

8.1 Should the Current Proposal proceed, the Promoters would wish to see all pupils transfer to the New Dual-Site Faith School to ensure that they continue to receive their education at a faith school and to a consistently high standard.

8.2 However, during the informal consultation a number of parents/guardians, particularly from the St Brigid's School community, stated that they would not send their children to any successor school and would wish to choose alternative provision. Accordingly, this section provides details of potential alternative, local authority maintained, provision in the catchment areas of the existing schools. The nearest alternative Catholic school would be St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School located in Flint. At present there is no Anglican Secondary School serving the current catchment area of the existing schools. Denbighshire County Council considers that alternatives for non-faith secondary provision would be as follows:

### **Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School Pupils:**

- Rhyl High School, Rhyl; and
- Prestatyn High School, Prestatyn,

### **St Brigid's School:**

- Denbigh High School;
- Rhyl High School, Rhyl; and
- Prestatyn High School, Prestatyn.

### **Options for Secondary Alternative provision:**

8.3 The pupil numbers for Rhyl High School and Denbigh High School have decreased over the past 5 years. The pupil numbers for Prestatyn High School and St Richard Gwyn High School have been consistent over the same period.

	Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Rhyl High School	1017*	916*	809	781	766
Prestatyn High School	1788	1813	1775	1748	1731
Denbigh High School	855	822	774	727	694
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	938	939	939	950	946

\* Figures include 11-18 provision. Rhyl High School VI form closed in September 2010

8.4 At January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Rhyl High School	159	153	155	166	133	n/a	n/a
Prestatyn High School	261	275	293	282	275	208	137
Denbigh High School	107	93	110	124	138	59	63
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	163	174	174	165	168	54	48

8.5 The forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that pupil numbers will reduce over the next five years in line with demographic trends as the overall numbers reduce in secondary education. It is anticipated that this trend will change by 2019 with a gradual increase in secondary pupils to reflect the current increases in the lower end of primary schools in Denbighshire.

	Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Rhyl High School	754	727	723	735	731
Prestatyn High School	1721	1668	1622	1576	1547
Denbigh High School	648	623	584	610	610
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc

## Surplus Places

	Current Pupil Numbers	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	% of surplus places
Rhyl High School	766	1315	549	41.7
Prestatyn High School	1731	1774	43	2.4
Denbigh High School	694	1002	308	30.7
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School	946	1000	54	5.4

### Comparisons of Educational Performance between alternative schools

8.6 The following tables provide analysis of performance of the percentage of pupils achieving Grade A\*-C by subject in 2012. In the below tables the following reference is used for the 6 schools:

#### Key:

BEJ	Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School
SB	St Brigid's School
RH	Rhyl High School
DH	Denbigh High School
PH	Prestatyn High School
SRG	St Richard Gwyn

## KS4 GCSE: A-C

### Percentage of pupils achieving Grade A\*-C by subject, 2012

	Core Subject Indicator	English	Maths	Science
BEJ	39.50%	60.50%	40.80%	78.90%
BEJ Family	31.30%	48.80%	38.70%	71.80%
SB	71.90%	93.00%	73.70%	94.70%
SB Family	70.50%	82.40%	80.10%	81.60%
RH	44.10%	47.80%	62.10%	90.70%
RH Family	36.30%	51.50%	46.60%	66.30%
DH	43.10%	65.00%	61.80%	58.50%
DH Family	53.60%	67.80%	61.90%	73.70%
PH	50.00%	62.60%	61.90%	75.90%
PH Family	53.60%	67.80%	61.90%	73.70%
SRG	59.20%	68.40%	71.70%	84.90%
SRG Family	57.80%	70.80%	66.80%	76.10%
Local Authority	53.10%	64.20%	63.70%	79.70%
Wales	48.90%	62.20%	58.40%	70.60%

**Percentage of pupils who have reached the expected level in English** *The percentage of pupils achieving at least a GCSE at Grade A\*-C in English (including boys only and girls)*

only)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>BEJ - Total</b>	64.60%	58.30%	42.30%	51.80%	60.50%
<b>BEJ Family - Total</b>	43.90%	44.30%	46.80%	45.40%	48.80%
<b>SB - Total</b>	89.10%	87.80%	96.40%	94.70%	93.00%
<b>SB Family - Total</b>	83.10%	83.20%	84.00%	83.00%	82.40%
<b>RH- Total</b>	32.80%	39.90%	42.20%	42.20%	47.80%
<b>RH Family - Total</b>	53.70%	51.90%	52.20%	51.00%	51.50%
<b>DH - Total</b>	48.50%	46.50%	33.80%	45.40%	65.00%
<b>DH Family - Total</b>	63.90%	62.10%	63.60%	64.60%	67.80%
<b>PH - Total</b>	51.10%	51.00%	60.40%	61.40%	62.60%
<b>PH Family - Total</b>	63.90%	62.10%	63.60%	64.60%	67.80%
<b>SRG - Total</b>	65.70%	67.70%	71.30%	67.80%	68.40%
<b>SRG Family - Total</b>	67.80%	70.10%	72.20%	72.10%	70.80%
<b>DCC - Total</b>	57.00%	56.30%	56.00%	61.20%	64.20%
<b>Wales - Total</b>	61.00%	61.00%	62.70%	62.80%	62.20%
<b>BEJ - Boys</b>	58.70%	52.60%	28.20%	51.10%	50.00%
<b>BEJ Family - Boys</b>	36.30%	36.70%	37.20%	35.80%	41.30%
<b>SB - Boys</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>SB Family - Boys</b>	76.90%	75.00%	76.40%	76.70%	76.10%
<b>RH - Boys</b>	23.80%	35.00%	33.00%	36.00%	37.40%
<b>RH Family - Boys</b>	44.40%	44.60%	44.60%	39.70%	41.20%
<b>DH - Boys</b>	41.30%	43.00%	26.70%	48.10%	63.20%
<b>DH Family - Boys</b>	56.10%	54.30%	55.50%	57.80%	60.60%
<b>PH - Boys</b>	47.60%	42.20%	50.00%	52.60%	60.20%
<b>PH Family - Boys</b>	56.10%	54.30%	55.50%	57.80%	60.60%
<b>SRG - Boys</b>	57.80%	64.60%	66.30%	61.70%	61.00%
<b>SRG Family - Boys</b>	61.30%	61.60%	65.20%	63.80%	63.60%
<b>DCC - Boys</b>	48.00%	47.30%	45.10%	53.90%	54.80%
<b>Wales - Boys</b>	52.80%	52.40%	54.00%	54.10%	53.90%
<b>BEJ - Girls</b>	72.70%	63.00%	56.40%	52.60%	70.00%
<b>BEJ Family - Girls</b>	51.90%	52.40%	57.00%	55.00%	56.90%
<b>SB - Girls</b>	*	*	*	*	*
<b>SB Family - Girls</b>	89.20%	91.50%	91.10%	89.50%	88.80%
<b>RH- Girls</b>	43.40%	44.30%	52.00%	47.90%	61.40%
<b>RH Family - Girls</b>	63.70%	59.90%	60.30%	62.00%	62.10%
<b>DH - Girls</b>	57.50%	52.40%	42.30%	41.20%	68.10%
<b>DH Family - Girls</b>	72.00%	70.80%	71.60%	71.50%	75.00%
<b>PH- Girls</b>	54.40%	60.10%	71.60%	71.60%	65.00%
<b>PH Family - Girls</b>	72.00%	70.80%	71.60%	71.50%	75.00%
<b>SRG - Girls</b>	74.10%	70.60%	77.50%	71.90%	77.10%
<b>SRG Family - Girls</b>	74.00%	78.00%	79.20%	80.50%	78.50%
<b>DCC - Girls</b>	65.80%	65.00%	66.70%	68.50%	74.00%

Wales - Girls	69.60%	70.00%	71.60%	71.80%	71.00%
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**Percentage of pupils who have reached the expected level in Maths** *The percentage of pupils achieving at least a GCSE at Grade*

***A\*-C in Maths (including boys only and girls only)***

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
BEJ - Total	43.00%	36.90%	20.50%	44.60%	40.80%
BEJ Family - Total	34.30%	32.90%	38.40%	39.40%	38.70%
SB - Total	69.10%	77.60%	75.00%	75.40%	73.70%
SB Family - Total	72.40%	79.70%	77.90%	80.20%	80.10%
RH- Total	29.30%	44.00%	43.10%	46.70%	62.10%
RH Family - Total	41.80%	44.70%	47.50%	46.30%	46.60%
DH - Total	44.80%	48.20%	36.30%	53.80%	61.80%
DH Family - Total	52.90%	55.20%	56.90%	57.50%	61.90%
PH - Total	51.10%	51.00%	60.40%	61.40%	62.60%
PH Family - Total	63.90%	62.10%	63.60%	64.60%	67.80%
SRG - Total	57.70%	67.70%	71.30%	59.10%	71.70%
SRG Family - Total	55.90%	59.90%	61.70%	65.00%	66.80%
DCC - Total	45.50%	55.80%	51.60%	60.20%	63.70%
Wales - Total	50.90%	53.30%	55.70%	56.50%	58.40%
BEJ - Boys	37.00%	39.50%	15.40%	53.30%	47.20%
BEJ Family - Boys	34.50%	34.20%	36.80%	37.70%	38.70%
SB - Boys	*	*	*	*	*
SB Family - Boys	72.60%	78.30%	77.40%	79.80%	80.50%
RH - Boys	28.60%	40.80%	37.60%	45.30%	60.40%
RH Family - Boys	41.00%	43.80%	47.20%	47.20%	46.00%
DH - Boys	43.50%	54.20%	37.20%	59.50%	65.80%
DH Family - Boys	52.50%	56.00%	58.10%	58.90%	62.90%
PH - Boys	47.60%	42.20%	50.00%	52.60%	60.20%
PH Family - Boys	56.10%	54.30%	55.50%	57.80%	60.60%
SRG - Boys	60.00%	72.20%	70.90%	60.00%	72.00%
SRG Family - Boys	56.10%	58.10%	61.80%	65.20%	66.60%
DCC - Boys	42.80%	54.90%	49.60%	61.00%	63.40%
Wales - Boys	49.40%	52.60%	55.70%	56.30%	57.90%
BEJ - Girls	51.50%	34.80%	25.60%	34.20%	35.00%
BEJ Family - Girls	34.20%	31.50%	40.00%	41.00%	38.60%
SB - Girls	*	*	*	*	*
SB Family - Girls	72.30%	81.10%	78.50%	80.60%	79.60%
RH- Girls	30.20%	47.00%	49.00%	47.90%	64.30%
RH Family - Girls	42.60%	45.80%	47.90%	45.40%	47.10%
DH - Girls	46.60%	38.10%	35.20%	45.10%	55.30%
DH Family - Girls	53.20%	54.20%	55.80%	56.20%	60.90%

PH- Girls	54.40%	60.10%	71.60%	71.60%	65.00%
PH Family - Girls	72.00%	70.80%	71.60%	71.50%	75.00%
SRG - Girls	55.30%	63.50%	71.80%	58.40%	71.40%
SRG Family - Girls	55.60%	61.60%	61.70%	64.70%	67.10%
DCC - Girls	48.00%	56.80%	53.70%	59.40%	63.90%
Wales - Girls	52.50%	54.10%	55.80%	56.70%	58.80%

**Percentage of pupils who have reached the expected level in Science** *The percentage of pupils achieving at least a GCSE at*

***Grade A\*-C in Science (including boys only and girls only)***

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
BEJ - Total	50.60%	47.60%	48.70%	56.60%	78.90%
BEJ Family - Total	35.90%	44.30%	53.90%	61.80%	71.80%
SB - Total	90.90%	85.70%	92.90%	94.70%	94.70%
SB Family - Total	78.00%	81.50%	81.00%	81.40%	81.60%
RH - Total	29.30%	44.00%	43.10%	46.70%	62.10%
RH Family - Total	41.80%	44.70%	47.50%	46.30%	46.60%
DH - Total	53.30%	57.10%	55.40%	66.20%	58.50%
DH Family - Total	66.30%	65.80%	66.30%	67.80%	73.70%
PH - Total	55.10%	55.30%	65.50%	66.60%	75.90%
PH Family - Total	66.30%	65.80%	66.30%	67.80%	73.70%
SRG - Total	57.70%	67.70%	71.30%	59.10%	71.70%
SRG Family - Total	55.90%	59.90%	61.70%	65.00%	66.80%
DCC - Total	55.90%	61.60%	64.60%	70.20%	79.70%
Wales - Total	59.50%	61.80%	63.60%	65.90%	70.60%
BEJ - Boys	43.50%	52.60%	41.00%	60.00%	75.00%
BEJ Family - Boys	36.30%	45.70%	49.00%	61.30%	67.40%
SB - Boys	*	*	*	*	*
SB Family - Boys	77.50%	79.10%	78.50%	80.70%	81.20%
RH - Boys	28.60%	40.80%	37.60%	45.30%	60.40%
RH Family - Boys	41.00%	43.80%	47.20%	47.20%	46.00%
DH - Boys	51.10%	57.00%	51.20%	67.10%	59.20%
DH Family - Boys	66.30%	64.10%	65.00%	67.10%	74.00%
PH - Boys	57.20%	55.20%	61.80%	64.10%	75.90%
PH Family - Boys	66.30%	64.10%	65.00%	67.10%	74.00%
SRG - Boys	60.00%	72.20%	70.90%	60.00%	72.00%
SRG Family - Boys	56.10%	58.10%	61.80%	65.20%	66.60%
DCC - Boys	52.60%	61.50%	61.00%	68.10%	75.70%
Wales - Boys	58.50%	60.20%	62.10%	64.50%	68.40%
BEJ - Girls	60.60%	43.50%	56.40%	52.60%	82.50%
BEJ Family - Girls	35.40%	42.70%	59.20%	62.30%	76.70%
SB - Girls	*	*	*	*	*



SB Family - Girls	78.60%	84.00%	83.30%	82.20%	82.10%
RH- Girls	30.20%	47.00%	49.00%	47.90%	64.30%
RH Family - Girls	42.60%	45.80%	47.90%	45.40%	47.10%
DH - Girls	56.20%	57.10%	60.60%	64.70%	57.40%
DH Family - Girls	66.20%	67.70%	67.50%	68.40%	73.50%
PH- Girls	53.10%	55.40%	69.40%	69.40%	75.90%
PH Family - Girls	66.20%	67.70%	67.50%	68.40%	73.50%
SRG - Girls	55.30%	63.50%	71.80%	58.40%	71.40%
SRG Family - Girls	55.60%	61.60%	61.70%	64.70%	67.10%
DCC - Girls	59.10%	61.70%	68.00%	72.30%	84.00%
Wales - Girls	60.60%	63.60%	65.20%	67.40%	72.80%

### Comparison of Estyn Reports

- 8.7 The four schools which may be used as alternative provision have been inspected under the different inspection frameworks.

#### Previous Framework

Key Question	Rhyl High School - 2008	St Richard Gwyn High Catholic School - 2008
1. How well do learners achieve?	4	2
2. How effective are teaching, training and assessment?	4	2
3. How well do the learning experiences meet the needs and interests of learners and the wider community?	3	2
4. How well are learners cared for, guided and supported?	3	1
5. How effective are leadership and strategic management?	4	2
6. How well do leaders and managers evaluate and improve quality and standards?	4	2
7. How efficient are leaders and managers in using resources?	4	2

**Key (to Previous Framework):**

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

**Current Framework**

Key Question	Prestatyn High School Inspection Judgement	Denbigh High School Inspection Judgement
1. How good are the outcomes?	Good	Unsatisfactory
2. How good is provision?	Good	Adequate
3. How good are leadership and management?	Good	Adequate
The school's current performance	Good	Unsatisfactory
The school's prospects for improvement	Good	Adequate

**Key (to current Framework):**

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

**9. Primary Provision**

- 9.1 If the Current Proposal is accepted the primary provision for the New Dual-Site Faith School would remain on the Denbigh site. The long term future for the Primary provision from the Denbigh site would be determined during the Second Phase (the opening of a Single-Site Faith School).
- 9.2 However parents may not wish to have their children attend the new Dual Site Faith School. Accordingly the potential alternative provision is set out below. The Catholic Diocese alternative provision within Denbighshire would be at Ysgol Mair in Rhyl. The Church in Wales alternative provision within Denbighshire would be around the St Asaph/Denbigh area at St Asaph Infants VP School, Ysgol Trefnant VA and in the Ruthin area at Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin; Ysgol Llanbedr and Ysgol Llanfair DC. It would be expected that should pupils wish to remain within faith education that alternative provision in Rhyl, St Asaph and Trefnant would be sought in the first instance.

### Options for Primary Alternative provision:

9.3 The pupil numbers for the four schools listed below have fluctuated over the last 4 years.

	Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ysgol Mair (VA)	285	277	252	257	249
Ysgol Trefnant (VC)	53	63	62	64	56
St Asaph Infants (VC)	76	82	85	85	86
Ysgol Esgob Morgan (Juniors CP)	123	111	103	96	99

9.4 At January 2013 the number of pupils in each year group was as follows:

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Mair (VA)	49	42	29	37	28	33	31
Ysgol Trefnant (VC)	6	10	13	8	3	7	9
St Asaph Infants (VC)	29	28	29	-	-	-	-
Ysgol Esgob Morgan	-	-	-	31	25	22	21

9.5 The forecast of future pupil rolls suggests that pupil numbers will increase over the next five years in line with demographic trends as the overall numbers entering education increase.

	Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Ysgol Mair (VA)	256	266	281	285	298
Ysgol Trefnant (VC)	59	61	67	69	65
St Asaph Infants (VC)	87	88	88	87	87
Ysgol Esgob Morgan	107	113	117	116	116

### Surplus Places

	Current Pupil Numbers	Current Capacity	Surplus Places	% of surplus places
Ysgol Mair (VA)	249	378	129	34.1%
Ysgol Trefnant (VC)	56	59	3	5.1%
St Asaph Infants (VC)	86	89	-3	-3.4%

Ysgol Esgob Morgan	99	108	9	8.3%
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### Comparisons of Educational Performance between alternative schools

#### KS2

#### % Pupils who have reached the expected level, 2012

	Core Subject Indicator	English	Maths	Science
SB	96.40%	96.40%	96.40%	100.00%
SB Family	89.90%	92.90%	92.90%	96.60%
YM	76.10%	82.60%	84.80%	91.30%
YM Family	81.30%	83.50%	86.80%	88.20%
YEM	88.90%	91.70%	91.70%	94.40%
YEM Family	91.10%	91.90%	93.20%	94.90%
YT	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
YT Family	86.80%	90.90%	90.10%	91.70%
Local Authority	83.50%	85.60%	87.70%	90.40%
Wales	82.60%	85.20%	86.80%	88.50%

#### % Pupils who have reached the expected level - English

*The percentage of pupils achieving at least level 4 in English*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB - Total	92.60%	96.40%	89.30%	89.70%	96.40%
SB Family - Total	87.10%	87.60%	88.80%	89.90%	92.90%
YM- Total	92.60%	96.40%	89.30%	89.70%	96.40%
YM Family - Total	87.10%	87.60%	88.80%	89.90%	92.90%
YEM - Total	90.90%	79.30%	96.30%	88.50%	91.70%
YEM Family - Total	88.30%	88.10%	89.80%	88.90%	91.90%
YT- Total	81.80%	100.00%	80.00%	77.80%	100.00%
YT Family - Total	81.00%	88.10%	85.10%	82.60%	90.90%
DCC - Total	81.80%	80.90%	82.00%	85.10%	85.60%
Wales - Total	79.80%	81.00%	81.90%	83.40%	85.20%

#### % Pupils who have reached the expected level - Maths

*The percentage of pupils achieving at least level 4 in Maths*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB - Total	96.30%	100.00%	78.60%	93.10%	96.40%
SB Family - Total	89.90%	89.10%	86.80%	93.00%	92.90%
YM Total	96.30%	100.00%	78.60%	93.10%	96.40%
YM Family - Total	89.90%	89.10%	86.80%	93.00%	92.90%
YEM - Total	81.80%	86.20%	92.60%	88.50%	91.70%
YEM Family - Total	90.50%	92.50%	87.40%	89.80%	93.20%
YT- Total	81.80%	88.90%	80.00%	88.90%	100.00%

YT Family - Total	83.30%	88.90%	85.10%	89.00%	90.10%
DCC - Total	81.70%	82.30%	82.70%	86.90%	87.70%
Wales - Total	81.30%	82.50%	83.30%	84.90%	86.80%

### **% Pupils who have reached the expected level - Science**

*The percentage of pupils achieving at least level 4 in Science*

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SB - Total	92.60%	100.00%	82.10%	93.10%	100.00%
SB Family - Total	89.90%	92.00%	90.50%	93.40%	96.60%
YM Total	92.60%	100.00%	82.10%	93.10%	100.00%
YM Family - Total	89.90%	92.00%	90.50%	93.40%	96.60%
YEM - Total	90.90%	89.70%	88.90%	96.20%	94.40%
YEM Family - Total	91.30%	91.70%	89.00%	93.80%	94.90%
YT- Total	90.90%	100.00%	80.00%	88.90%	100.00%
YT Family - Total	88.10%	94.10%	93.40%	89.90%	91.70%
DCC - Total	85.60%	86.80%	86.10%	90.50%	90.40%
Wales - Total	85.60%	86.40%	86.40%	87.10%	88.50%

### **Alternative Provision – Flintshire and Conwy**

- 9.6 In the eastern area of Conwy, the Catholic Diocese provision would be via Ysgol St Joseph's in Colwyn Bay. Similarly, for the Church in Wales in eastern Conwy alternative provision could be provided at Ysgol y Plas, Llanellian, Ysgol Betws yn Rhos, Ysgol Llanddulas and Ysgol St George.
- 9.7 In the western area of Flintshire the Catholic Diocese provision would be via St Winefrede's in Holywell. For the Church in Wales in western Flintshire alternative provision could be provided at Ysgol yr Esgob, Caerwys; Nannerch VC School; Ysgol y Llan, Whitford; Ysgol Trelawnyd and St Mary's, Nercwys.
- 9.8 Determining fully the alternative provision that parents may wish to choose is difficult because the catchment area of primary age pupils attending St Brigid's School is spread over such a wide area. Approximately a quarter of St Brigid's School pupils live outside of Denbighshire in either Flintshire or Conwy. In the region of a quarter of the pupils who come from Denbighshire live in either Denbigh or Rhyl and their surrounding areas and around 15% are from the St Asaph area.

### **10. Special educational needs provision**

- 10.1 If the Current Proposal is approved and the work of the First Phase is carried out, very little will change. The two existing schools will become one new school but the pupils will continue to be taught by the same teachers, in the same buildings and on the same site as they do now. Accordingly, any pupils with special

educational needs (**SEN**) who currently attend the schools will continue to receive the same education and support in precisely the same environment. The council will help pupils with SEN who experience difficulties because of the change from two schools to one.

10.2 The Council appreciates that the move to a Single-Site Faith School will result in greater change than operating one school on two sites. This will affect all pupils but it is likely to prove even more challenging to pupils with SEN. The council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption and to assist such pupils with the transition.

10.3 The facilities available at a Single-Site Faith School will be designed in consultation with Denbighshire County Council's SEN Education Officers, and the staff and pupils concerned. It is anticipated that this approach will produce improved conditions and so learning experience for pupils with SEN.

## The Proposal

### 11. What we are proposing

11.1 This formal consultation relates to the Current Proposal, namely: to close Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School and to establish a new Anglican & Catholic Faith Voluntary Aided School serving the communities of Denbigh, Rhyl and surrounding areas on the existing sites. In summary, the Current Proposal relates to the First Phase which entails the creation of the New Dual-Site Faith School.

11.2 A second consultation would occur to consider moving to a new location to be determined in the Bodelwyddan/Rhuddlan area to allow for the construction of a new school building. This second consultation would be held to consider the Second Phase which would result in a Single-Site Faith School.

#### What would this mean?

11.3 If the Current Proposal was approved:

- a. Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School would both close on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014; and
- b. The New Dual-Site Faith Voluntary Aided School would open on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 (initially on the existing sites in Rhyl and Denbigh and utilising the existing buildings).

11.4 All children attending Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School would transfer to the New Dual-Site Faith School; subject to parental preference. Whilst the New Dual-Site Faith School remains on two sites pupils would continue to be taught on their original school site. The facilities provided at the New Dual-Site Faith School would be identical to the current facilities at both Blessed Edward Jones and St Brigid's; the medium of instruction would remain as English.

11.5 The New Dual-Site Faith School would have two distinct age ranges which would be linked to the particular sites. Initially as part of the First Phase, the existing buildings at the Rhyl site would provide 11-16 provision and the existing buildings at the Denbigh site 3-18 provision. The table below shows the capacity across the two sites:

<b>First Phase: New Dual-Site Faith School</b>			
	<b>Nursery (part time)</b>	<b>Primary (full time)</b>	<b>Secondary (full time)</b>
<b>Denbigh site</b>	17	121	367
<b>Rhyl site</b>	0	0	659
<b>Total</b>	17	121	1026

This would provide an overall capacity across all the age ranges of 1147 full time places and 17 part time places. As can be seen in the table below showing the projected pupil numbers should the Current Proposal be implemented, the New Dual Site Faith School would comfortably be able to accommodate the projected number of pupils over the next five years.

<b>Projected Full Time pupil numbers – January PLASC</b>				
<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
852	795	752	763	744

- 11.6 In terms of the leadership and management of the New Dual-Site Faith School, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 there would be one Governing Body, one Headteacher and one group of staff. The Governing Body would include Parent, Denbighshire County Council, Teacher and Staff representation together with a number of Foundation Governors appointed by the Promoters. Prior to the opening of the New Dual-Site Faith School, on 1<sup>st</sup> September, a Temporary Governing Body would be established and this would take key decisions regarding the appointment of the Headteacher and the supportive leadership team, the staffing structure for and name of the New Dual-Site Faith School, uniform policies etc.
- 11.7 As stated above in **paragraph 2.3** the intention of the Council and its partners would be to consolidate provision on to a single site, probably in the Bodelwyddan/Rhuddlan area. Any proposed move would be subject to further formal consultation. It is expected that the post 16 provision will be delivered predominately by the existing Rhyl and Prestatyn VI provision. The anticipated size of the Single-Sited School would also be reviewed when a clearer understanding of its demand emerges.
- 11.8 It is anticipated that the design ethos of the Single-Site Faith School building would seek to develop home bases for year groups as a potential model. This may address some of the concerns regarding a transition for existing pupils to a larger school model by the pupils remaining in their “home environment” for the majority of their lessons. The figure of 600 / 750 has been chosen based on the initial feedback received during the informal consultation that a number of parents may choose to remove their children from any revised provision if it were too large. This



position will be reviewed at the start of the Second Phase of consultation regarding a new site.

- 11.9 Following the completion of the new school building the Catholic Diocese of Wrexham and the St Brigid's Trust would need to consider declaring the existing sites as surplus to requirements. It is anticipated that any proceeds from the disposal of surplus sites would be used to contribute to the overall costs of the new school building.

## **12. The proposal in detail - description and rationale**

- 12.1 Denbighshire County Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible educational provision for children and young people. This proposal has been developed in line with:
- a. the Council's commitment to 'Modernising Education';
  - b. the School Effectiveness Framework's aim of enabling all children and young people to develop their full potential; and
  - c. the Welsh Assembly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to improve school buildings and facilities.
- 12.2 There are a number of issues facing both schools that could impact on their ability to sustain educational standards and experiences into the future.

### **Educational case for change**

- 12.3 Financial constraints limit the capacity of small secondary schools to implement senior and middle leadership structures that meet the requirements of teachers pay and conditions. The Current Proposal would see the development of leadership and management structures, across both schools, to provide increased opportunities for staff development and progression.
- 12.4 The Current Proposal will offer greater opportunities for the two schools to work together to improve staff expertise that will lead to raising standards. For example:
- a. Teachers can work together to plan and prepare high quality lessons and standardise assessment; and
  - b. Peer observation of the best teachers lessons to develop consistently high teaching practice.
- 12.5 A larger school will provide the opportunity for targeted support and capacity for smaller groups of pupils who are in need of extra support; including greater capacity for more able and talented pupils.
- 12.6 The Current Proposal will offer pupils a wider range of high quality courses at key stage 4 more effectively to address the statutory requirements of the 14-19 Learning and Skills Measure<sup>xi</sup>. It is extremely difficult for small secondary schools to meet the statutory requirement of over 30 academic and vocational courses at GCSE/Level 2.

- 12.7 The two schools find it difficult to offer pupils a broad range of experiences in physical education; neither school has adequate indoor or outdoor sports facilities for pupils and the local community.
- 12.8 Facilities for Design Technology are unsatisfactory; they are housed in either mobile accommodation or old and ill-equipped workshops that don't meet the needs of the national curriculum or examination requirements.
- 12.9 The quality of teaching and learning is compromised in both schools by classrooms that are too small, have insufficient natural light and are poorly ventilated. There are areas in both schools with corridors and stairs that are too narrow to allow pupils to move around easily and there are too few spaces for breakout sessions, mentoring, social spaces as well as ICT teaching and storage.
- 12.10 All of the matters referred to in **paragraphs 12.3 – 12.9** above can be improved upon significantly by a combination of the First and Second Phases.

#### **Adequacy of existing school buildings and sites**

- 12.11 The condition of both schools was considered poor when the all Wales survey was undertaken in 2009 as part of the preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The Council has clear proposals to improve the other 2 schools in Denbighshire classed as poor: Rhyl High School and Ysgol Glan Clwyd. The planned investment for the faith sector would complete this initial stage of investment in secondary provision.
- 12.12 The St Brigid's School site relies very heavily on mobile accommodation to deliver the curriculum. At present there are 2 mobile classrooms in use for the Primary age group and 9 units for the Secondary age group. In context these 11 units represent almost a quarter of all mobiles in use across Denbighshire. A number of these units, which should be considered as a temporary provision to overcome short term difficulties whilst planned investment occurs, have been in use for over 10 years.
- 12.13 Access to Physical Education provision has significant barriers at both existing schools. The playing fields for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School are located approximately a mile away on Ffordd Derwen; which has an impact on delivering this element of the curriculum. The main playing fields area for St Brigid's School is across the A543 Mold to Denbigh road which poses issues for accessibility and safety; particularly for younger pupils. There is also no dedicated main sports hall facility at either school as in both cases the main hall is used for all elements of school life.

12.14 Clearly both sites, and in particular the St Brigid's School site, as a consequence of the heavy reliance on mobile accommodation, are in need of significant investment to enable both schools to provide a learning environment fit for purpose to meet the requirements of the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. Against the competing needs of all other 55 Denbighshire schools, the council is firmly of the view that investing significant sums in two small schools (in the context of secondary provision) would not represent an effective use of resources. Without expansion in the size of either school such a proposal would not address concerns over sustainability.

### **13. Creating and maintaining the right ethos**

13.1 During the informal consultation, parents from both schools expressed reservations over the potential increase in the size of any new school which may emerge from this Current Proposal.

13.2 The main concerns expressed, particularly by the parents of pupils from St Brigid's School pupils, were the loss of the ethos of the school, the loss of an all-through school, the loss of a small school environment and the loss of a semi-rural inspiring teaching environment<sup>xii</sup>.

13.3 During the First Phase, as the provision will be on the two existing sites, it will be possible for the ethos of both former schools to be retained. However, as the two sites will be connected by being part of the same school, each will have the opportunity to learn from the other; the best parts of the ethos of each former school may be shared and benefited from.

13.4 Denbighshire County Council is of the view that the Second Phase would, through the design of the school, maintain the environment of a small school in a semi rural setting whilst the ethos of the school is drawn from the Governors, Teaching Staff, Pupils and the learning environment. The opportunity for both schools to contribute and develop a similar caring environment, whilst ensuring that the strengths of both schools can be developed within modern teaching facilities is an opportunity to be explored with all parties during this formal consultation period.

#### **14. Admission arrangements for the New Dual-Site Faith School**

- 14.1 At present there are differences in the admission arrangements for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School; particularly around the use of entry examinations at St Brigid's School for an element of the intake to Year 7. The New Dual-Site Faith School would have a unified approach to admission arrangements and intake arrangements. There would be no element of selection via the use of examinations as part of these arrangements.
- 14.2 The suggested admission arrangements for the New Dual-Site Faith School will be based upon a new policy to be developed in a partnership between Denbighshire County Council, the Church in Wales and Catholic Diocesan authorities and St Brigid's Trust. The entry of children and young people into the New Dual-Site Faith School and the application for places will be controlled and administered initially by the Temporary Governing Body and subsequently by the Governing Body.

#### **15. How will the final site location be determined?**

- 15.1 The final site location for the Single-Site Faith School, which will emerge from the Second Phase, will be carefully considered by Promoters.
- 15.2 In the first instance, the difficulties in expanding both current school sites within the existing boundaries to accommodate all pupils attending both schools have been acknowledged; particularly during the informal consultation exercise<sup>xiii</sup>.
- 15.3 In view of the distance between both existing schools it is acknowledged that a combined site would provide problematic and may cause difficulties for some parents. On balance the Council is of the view that a faith secondary presence is an important option for parents to maintain diversity of choice: however, as stated in **paragraph 12.13** above, retaining two sites is not an acceptable long term option.
- 15.4 The first priority, in considering a new single location, has been to ensure, where appropriate, it can be accessible to a large percentage of current and future pupils. The search area has initially focussed on the area to the north of the A55 as approximately 65% of the current joint school population live in this area.
- 15.5 A number of potential locations have been identified on the outskirts of Bodelwyddan, Rhuddlan, Rhyl, and St Asaph and initial desktop feasibility work has been undertaken to assess the viability of such sites. This initial work has highlighted a preferred site in the Rhuddlan area.
- 15.6 More detailed feasibility work will be progressed at a later date to determine a preferred location which will enable the Promoters to enter into any negotiations which may be required with any third parties regarding land purchases etc.

15.7 As stated above in **paragraph 1.3** above, there will be a separate formal consultation on any proposal as the location of a Single-Site Faith School will require formal statutory proposals to be published.

**16. What are the transport implications of this proposal?**

**Dual site**

16.1 There will be no initial implications in terms of transport for pupils arising from the Current Proposal. All pupils currently transported to Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School who qualify for 'Home to School Transport' would continue to be transported free of charge to the Rhyl and Denbigh sites of the New Dual-Site Faith School; subject to parental preference.

16.2 At present the current costs for 'Home to School Transport' for the two schools are: £49,400 per annum for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and £79,657 per annum for St Brigid's School.

**Following move to a single site**

16.3 Denbighshire County Council anticipates that, following completion of the First Phase, the majority of pupils attending the Denbigh and Rhyl sites of the New Dual-Site Faith School would transfer to the Single-Site Faith School; possibly in the Bodelwyddan/Rhuddlan area.

16.4 Transport would be provided in the first instance in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's Transport Policy which states that free transport is provided for pupils who live more than 3 miles from their nearest suitable school<sup>xiv</sup>.

16.5 The Council has recognised that the majority of pupils currently attending Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School would not be eligible for free transport should the Single-Site Faith School be located in the Rhuddlan area. If the Rhuddlan area is chosen for Single-Site Faith School, the council will examine the scope for discretionary free transportation for pupils of the New Dual-Site Faith School who remain on the roll when the change of site takes place for a period of 5 years.

16.6 Should the new school be sited in the Bodelwyddan area it is anticipated that the majority of current pupils for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School would be eligible for free 'Home to School Transport'. Accordingly there would be no consideration of discretionary free transport.

16.7 In view of what is likely to be a long timescale between the Current Proposal being approved and a new site becoming operational, it is difficult to estimate likely costs implications in respect of transport budgets. During the possible 6 years (for which the New Dual-Site Faith School may operate until the Second Phase is completed), there will be a range of variables which will impact on any modelling, including

changes in pupil numbers, transport costs etc. This work will be progressed as part of the process to determine a preferred site for the new Single-Site Faith School.

**17. What are the staffing implications of this proposal?**

- 17.1 Should the Current Proposal be implemented, the New Dual-Site Faith School would have only one Headteacher. The Temporary Governing Body of the New Dual-Site Faith School would need to appoint the Headteacher and this could involve national advertisements or an internal appointment.
- 17.2 The Promoters, with agreement from the Temporary Governing Body, would apply appropriate HR policies to reassure and clarify the position of staff.
- 17.3 A staffing structure would need to be developed for the New Dual-Site Faith School taking into account a number of factors including operating initially on two sites, delivering the curriculum, class sizes and budget implications.
- 17.4 While the New Dual-Site Faith School operates on two sites the council does not anticipate any major changes to the existing staffing structures other than the Headteacher and other leadership positions. However, final decisions regarding the new staffing structure would be taken by the Temporary Governing Body and the new Headteacher.
- 17.5 The council will recommend to the Temporary Governing Body that all teaching and associate staff posts for the New Dual-Site Faith School should be “ring-fenced” to the staff within the existing two schools.
- 17.6 As part of this formal consultation process there will be full consultation with all members of staff and the appropriate teaching unions.

**18. What are the financial implications of this proposal?**

- 18.1 The funding for individual schools within Denbighshire is apportioned by the School Budget Formula which was revised and implemented for the 2013/14 financial year. The formula provides funding based on seven strategic elements; namely curriculum, social deprivation and inclusion, additional learning needs, welsh language, premises, sustainability and business support. At present all schools budgets are derived from the formula which provides funding predominately through lump sums or payments which are varied in relation to individual school factors. These include number of pupils, floor sizes, free school meal entitlement, number of statemented or additional learning needs pupils etc. In a number of instances these may vary on an annual basis so any predictions can only be provided on known factors and within agreed formulas.

**Dual Site**

- 18.2 It is estimated that the initial annual revenue savings from the closure of the two schools and opening of the New Dual-Site Faith School may be approximately £379k each year. These savings would occur primarily as the school would be funded as a single school. The School Budget Formula provides a range of lump sums per school and by the nature of amalgamation and the creation of a single school these payments would no longer be applicable. This estimate is also based on the current proposals for a further revision to the Schools Budget Formula to create a formula for a Middle School which will reflect the official position of St Brigid's as a single 3-18 school. It is important to note that historically St Brigid's has been recognised as a Primary and a Secondary School for the purposes of school funding. As the school is now officially recognised by the Welsh Government as a middle school (3-18) proposals are to be consulted on with the School's Budget Forum which may change how St Brigid's is currently funded. This will take place outside of the review of Faith Education. Therefore at this stage the figure of £379k is the maximum saving that may occur.
- 18.3 Despite losing some lump sums there would be an entitlement to an additional lump sum which is provided to all schools who are amalgamated and operating on dual sites as per the current funding formula.
- 18.4 The savings would be retained within the education budget. The savings will be recommended for use predominately to support the school as transitional funding outside of the Funding Formula whilst the school is operating on 2 sites and also as part of the investment in the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Schools Programme.

#### **Following move to a single site**

- 18.5 In view of the range of variables associated with the production of school budgets and the move to a single site, at this stage it is very difficult to predict what the overall impact would be for the finances of the Single-Site Faith School. Therefore, until a range of issues have been determined, including pupil numbers, likely floor areas etc. it is difficult to predict accurately any cost implications.

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

- 19.1 The council, following discussions with representatives of the Diocesan Authorities and the Trustees of the St Brigid's Trust, included proposals for a potential new school as part of its overall 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme to the Welsh Government in December 2010.
- 19.2 All local authorities throughout Wales were invited to review their Band A<sup>xv</sup> submissions in November 2011 and the council provided the following text to indicate its wish for the project to remain as a priority:

*'Faith Based Secondary Provision – Blessed Edward Jones RC and St Brigid's  
Estimated Cost £28.8m*

*The Council is committed to working with Diocesan authorities and local faith schools to develop options for a new faith based secondary school to replace the two existing schools. This project is seen as important to ensure community cohesion following the completion of the Rhyl VI project and the commencement of the Rhyl High project. Both schools fall below the minimum size for Secondary Schools within the Policy Framework and the authority considers that both schools would not be viable in the long term and that the present situation needs to be reviewed to ensure the long term sustainability of faith based provision within Denbighshire. As part of the discussions the option of a multi denomination school serving both Catholic and Anglican communities on a regional basis has been agreed. This vision is based on the joint facility serving an age range of 11-16 with the capability of offering and hosting post 16 provision as part of a wider partnership with other schools and educational institutions within Denbighshire. As neither of the existing sites of Blessed Edward Jones in Rhyl and St Brigid's in Denbigh would be considered suitable for the new school for issues in relation to location, alternative sites have been considered by the local authority and discussed with denominational stakeholders. Discussions have also taken place over the reinvestment of surplus sites to aid the funding position.*

*The authority has discussed with stakeholders provisional timescales for the project moving forward, including timescales for progressing the relevant statutory notices to close both schools and establish a new school, pending clarification of funding and is minded to develop a phased approach to the development of the new facility. An estimate of £28m is suggested at this stage and the costs would be reviewed during submission of the Outline Business Case should authority to proceed be approved.'*

- 19.3 In considering this information it is important to note that this text was provided as an outline concept in the knowledge that it would be subject to significant consultation to deliver options which could be implemented. In reaffirming this project Denbighshire County Council was of the view that not including the project as a Band A proposal would have effectively precluded significant investment in faith secondary investment for a considerable time period (until 2021) as it would not have been part of the approved proposals.
- 19.4 The funding proposal prepared by the Council and submitted to the Welsh Government was, therefore, based on what could be achieved in developing options for the future; what *could* be possible. Without that proposal and the discussions between the Council and the Diocesan Authorities which followed it, there would have been no outline vision for what could be achieved for secondary faith education. It follows that without this, the Council would not have been able to secure an outline commitment that the project may be funded.



19.5 Should the proposal which is the subject matter of this formal consultation be approved, the council would then commence the process of developing a Strategic Outline Case for the new school being located on one site in parallel with future school organisation proposals. Following this, the council would need to provide an Outline Business Case and a Full Business Case to secure the funding which has previously been approved in principle. The funding for the project will be provided in partnership between the Welsh Government, Denbighshire County Council and the other Promoters of the new school.

## **20. What are the disadvantages of the proposal?**

20.1 If the Current Proposal is approved the New Dual-Site Faith School will be located on the existing school sites in Denbigh and Rhyl. Accordingly, the number and impact of any initial disadvantages will be minimised. The process would be managed to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum and should not impact on the children's education.

20.2 There would be a greater amount of disruption once the New Dual-Site Faith School moves to a single site. The new Governing Body, Headteacher and the Promoters would seek to minimise any disruption and where possible provide continuity for pupils and parents.

20.3 Upon the opening of the new Single-Site Faith School it is anticipated that more children will be required to travel further to school; subject to parental preference. Transport would be provided in accordance with Denbighshire's transport policy<sup>xvi</sup> to meet the needs of pupils and to ensure travelling times are not excessive.

20.4 There would also be implications for staff at the current Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School should the proposals be progressed for the development of a New Dual-Site Faith School. The role of the Headteacher would need to be carefully considered by the Temporary Governing Body. The approach to appointments to the role of Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team would be an issue for determination by the Temporary Governing Body which would need to consider whether the positions should be advertised nationally or appointed internally.

20.5 The new Headteacher and the Temporary Governing Body would be required to consider the staffing structure for the New Dual-Site Faith School. The Council would work initially with the Temporary Governing Body (and then with the Governing Body) of the New Dual-Site Faith School during these times and should the need arise would work with the current members of staff to seek redeployment opportunities.

## **21. Alternative Options**

21.1 The Promoters have given careful consideration to a range of alternative options as part of the development of the Current Proposal. In considering these options

reference has been made to the main investment objectives of the council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme which are as follows:

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

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

- Option 1.1 Maintain the status quo;
- Option 1.2 Undertake refurbishment works at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School;
- Option 1.3 Undertake refurbishment works at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School, and replace all mobile units at St Brigid's School;
- Option 1.4 Undertake rebuild of Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School; or
- Option 1.5 Build new joint faith school.

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

**Option 1.1 Maintain Status Quo (Do nothing)**

Advantages	Disadvantages
This is the 'cheap' option as no additional investment expenditure is required.	The poor condition of the buildings and learning environment would not be significantly improved.
	Would not address existing deficiencies with regard to existing gaps in provision, particular regarding access to sports facilities.
	The two schools could face real issues

	regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
	There would be no progress for Faith Secondary Education towards the strategic aims for Modernising Education in Denbighshire.
	May not provide the opportunity for widening access to education for Church in Wales' primary pupils.
	Would not address issues regarding a deficit of provision at St Brigid's and the surplus of places at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School.

**Option 1.2 Undertake refurbishment works at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's (Minimum)**

Advantages	Disadvantages
The reduced capital costs in respect of addressing existing building maintenance backlogs and addressing minor issues.	The poor condition of the buildings and learning environment would not be improved.
It would be straightforward to progress with no changes required within school organisation.	Would not address existing deficiencies with regard to existing gaps in provision, particular regarding access to sports facilities.
	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
	There would be no progress for Faith Secondary Education towards the strategic aims for Modernising Education in Denbighshire.
	May not provide the opportunity for widening access to education for Church in Wales' primary pupils.
	Would not address issues regarding a

	deficit of provision at St Brigid’s and the surplus of places at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School.
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**Option 1.3 Undertake refurbishment works at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid’s, and replace all mobile units at St Brigid’s (Minimum+)**

Advantages	Disadvantages
The reduced capital costs in respect of addressing existing building maintenance backlogs and addressing minor issues.	The poor condition of the buildings and learning environment would not be improved.
The removal of all mobile accommodation at the St Brigid’s site at Denbigh.	Would not address existing deficiencies with regard to existing gaps in provision, particular regarding access to sports facilities.
It would be straightforward to progress with no changes required within school organisation.	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
	There would be no progress for Faith Secondary Education towards the strategic aims for Modernising Education in Denbighshire.
	May not provide the opportunity for widening access to education for Church in Wales’ primary pupils.
	Would not address issues regarding a deficit of provision at St Brigid’s and the surplus of places at Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School.

**Option 1.4 Undertake rebuild of Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid’s School (Intermediate)**

Advantages	Disadvantages
Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils.	The two schools could face real issues regarding long term sustainability in regard to delivering the changing curriculum.
Would enable the schools capacity to be	There would only be partial progress for

amended to reflect the respective current demand for Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School and St Brigid's School.	Faith Secondary Education towards the strategic aims for Modernising Education in Denbighshire.
Would not lead to any significant changes in regard to school organisation proposals with potential alterations required to the capacity of St Brigid's School.	May not provide the opportunity for widening access to education for Church in Wales' primary pupils.
Would not require amendments to pupil travel arrangements.	The requirement to access further land on both sites to address existing deficiencies particular with regard to access to sports.

#### Option 1.5 Build new joint faith school (Maximum)

Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Designing and constructing new fit for purpose facilities would significantly improve the learning environment for all pupils, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved ICT and Design Technology teaching areas</li> <li>• Improved access to better sports facilities</li> <li>• Flexible work spaces</li> <li>• More natural light</li> <li>• Improved circulation around the school and better accessibility for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010</li> </ul>	<p>Potential risk that parents choose an alternative provision for non-faith reasons which leads to a reduction in pupil numbers.</p>
Bringing together the delivery of both schools to a single campus could yield significant economies of scale.	
This would allow for a joint faith provision to be developed.	
Remove the need to rely on mobile accommodation.	

Allow the issue of surplus and deficit to be addressed.	
A more central location for the majority of current pupils.	

21.4 The analysis of these options suggest to meet the investment objectives and critical success factors that the option of building a new joint faith school should be considered as the preferred option upon which an outline business case should be developed in due course.

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## Analysis of Options against Investment Objectives and Critical Success Factors

	Option 1.1 Do nothing	Option 1.2 Minimum	Option 1.3 Minimum +	Option 1.4 Intermediate	Option 1.5 Maximum
<b>Investment objectives</b>					
1 Improved Learning Environment	x	x	?	✓	✓
2 Greater Economy – Revenue Implications	x	x	x	x	✓
2 Greater Economy – Capital	?	?	?	?	?
3 Sustainable Education system	x	x	x	✓	✓
<b>Critical success factors</b>					
CSF1 Improved attainment and performance	?	?	?	?	?
CSF2 Improved school condition and suitability	x	x	?	✓	✓
CSF3 Reduction in surplus places	x	x	x	?	✓
CSF4 Improved access to education for faith education	x	x	x	x	✓
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Discounted</b>	<b>Discounted</b>	<b>Discounted</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Preferred</b>

21.5 In considering the options both 1.4 and 1.5 could be seen to deliver an improved learning environment and address many of the shortfalls identified regarding

building provision. However, maintaining the status quo, albeit in an improved provision will not improve the overall sustainability of faith provision.

- 21.6 The Promoters are of the view that there are advantages in moving the Current Proposal forward on a phased approach i.e. amalgamation on both sites prior to the building of the Single-Site Faith School. The interim advantages around improved leadership and management will be gained in a shorter timescale whilst the phased approach will also provide an opportunity for the New Dual-Site Faith School to take full ownership of the project to build the new facility and to ensure a smooth transition between the status quo and the Single-Site Faith School.
- 21.7 In considering the options for a new school careful consideration was given to the age range of the school. In particular during the informal consultation period many St Brigid's School parents spoke of their support for retaining a 3-18 provision.
- 21.8 Denbighshire County Council officers have undertaken research into the 3-18 model which has been implemented in other areas within Wales. Whilst strong arguments exist, ultimately it has been agreed not to pursue this model as the council would be unable to support full post-16 provision from a new joint faith school in the north of Denbighshire because this should be delivered in partnership with existing providers. The collective view is to explore the age range for the Single-Site Faith School during the Second Phase.

## **22. Explanation of the statutory process**

- 22.1 In order for the Current Proposal to be implemented, Denbighshire County Council is required to follow a procedure laid out by a combination of an Act of the Welsh Government and a statutory Code.
- 22.2 The requirements are as follows:
- a. Consultation held with people likely to be affected by the Proposal;
  - b. Consultation report setting out details of the Consultation to be published on the council's website;
  - c. Publication of the Current Proposal (also known as the 'statutory notice') with details such as the planned implementation date, how to obtain a copy of the consultation report and how to object:
    - i) on the council's website;
    - ii) posted on or near the main entrance of the two schools; and
    - ii) by providing affected schools with copies to distribute to parents.
  - d. An objection period of 28 days from the date of publication allowing anyone who wishes to object to the Current Proposal to do so;
  - e. Determination by the council (when, subject to the above process, the decision to implement the Current Proposal may be approved);
  - f. Publication by the council of any objections and its response to them (within 7 days of the date of determination of the Current Proposal).



22.3 Please note that any response provided to the formal consultation will not be regarded as an objection to the Current Proposal. This is because the Current Proposal may change in response to the formal consultation. If you would like to object to the Current Proposal, please wait until it has been published (as described in **paragraph 22.2(c)** above) then follow the procedure set out on the statutory notice.

22.4 Should the council implement the Current Proposal having received objections, it is possible for certain people to request that the matter be referred to the Welsh Ministers for determination. Only, the Diocesan authorities, the governing bodies of either school, the local authority of neighbouring counties with schools which are likely to be affected by the Proposal, the Trustees of the St Brigid's Trust and a further education institution which is likely to be affected by the Proposal may request such a referral.

### **23. Community and equality impact**

23.1 The council has carried out assessments on the impact of the Current Proposal on the local communities and people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. As the Current Proposal, if implemented, will result in the Dual-Site Faith School, there will be no change with regards to accessibility and equality or community usage and benefit.

23.2 Further Equality and Community impact assessments will be carried out in respect of the Second Phase.

### **24. Response Form**

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

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

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

<sup>iii</sup> Section 43(1) [School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013]: Royal Assent has been received but the act has not yet been published.

<sup>iv</sup> Section 43(2) [School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013]:]

<sup>v</sup> [Set out the section and name of Act or SI giving this power]

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<sup>vi</sup> Modernising Education Framework - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

<sup>vii</sup> Informal Consultation Report - available to read on request at DCC's offices in Ruthin or by visiting the website [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] in the School Organisation & Modernising section

<sup>viii</sup> Copies of these letters and emails from people who gave relevant consents are available to view on the DCC website by following this link [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] in the School Organisation & Modernising section. All personal details have been removed from the letters and emails.

<sup>ix</sup> The Estyn report relating to Blessed Edward Jones may be accessed by following this link [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] or visiting the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section

<sup>x</sup> The Estyn report relating to St Brigid's may be accessed by following this link [[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation)] or visiting the DCC website in the School Organisation & Modernising section

<sup>xi</sup> Denbighshire County Council's 14 – 19 Learning Skills Measure [details and link]

<sup>xii</sup> Reference to the Informal Consultation Report section which shows this.

<sup>xiii</sup> Reference to the Information Consultation Report section which shows this.

<sup>xiv</sup> Refer to the section of the policy and to where it can be found if we put it on the website

<sup>xv</sup> Explain what Band A means in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools.

<sup>xvi</sup> Reference the Transport Policy and relevant section