

Appendix 1



Modernising Education Programme

Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area

Informal Consultation Response Report

June 2013

Version: 05/06/2013

1. Introduction

1.1 Denbighshire County Council's Cabinet approved the commencement of an informal consultation regarding the future of primary provision in the Ruthin area in November 2012. The initial consultation commenced on the **04/02/2013** and closed on the **22/03/2013**; during this period a total of 195 questionnaire responses were received in addition to 63 letters and emails from interested parties; and four proposals from individual schools, governing bodies and affiliated groups were also received.

The Ruthin area review includes 11 schools:

- Ysgol Borthyn, Ruthin;
- Ysgol Bro Famau, Llanarmon yn Ial & Llanferres (two sites);
- Ysgol Clocaenog;
- Ysgol Cyffylliog;
- Ysgol Gellifor (federated school);
- Ysgol Llanbedr;
- Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd;
- Ysgol Pen Barras, Ruthin;
- Ysgol Pentrecelyn;
- Rhos Street School, Ruthin;
- Ysgol Rhewl;

1.2 A summary consultation paper '**Review of Primary School Provision in the Ruthin Area**' was sent to all parents of pupils in the 11 primary schools, including the parents of pupils in Ysgol Bryn Clwyd as well as all staff. The summary document outlined the reasons behind the area review, which included;

- Ensuring the sustainability of high quality educational provision;
- Improving the quality of school buildings and facilities;
- Provide the right number of places, of the right type in the right location

A questionnaire was attached to the summary consultation paper which sought to determine key influencers for parental preference when deciding on primary education including type of provision (i.e. Faith, Welsh medium and English Medium), location of school and the opportunity to raise any other matters pertinent to primary provision in the Ruthin Area.

1.3 During the initial consultation period a number of meetings were held with interested parties, which included;

- Parents;
- Staff;
- Governing Bodies (where this was requested)

1.4 This report will provide a full analysis of all correspondence received during the initial consultation period. The report will be divided into four sections to correspondent with the types of response received as outlined below;

- Section Two: Analysis of questionnaire responses including individual school breakdown and combined area analysis. A copy of the questionnaire is available in Annex A.
- Section Three: Letter and e-mail response analysis.
- Section Four: Summary of the proposal received from individual schools.
- Section Five: Additional responses from interested parties (miscellaneous).

2. Section Two: Questionnaire Responses

2.1 The table below provides the volume of responses received from parents at each of the schools;

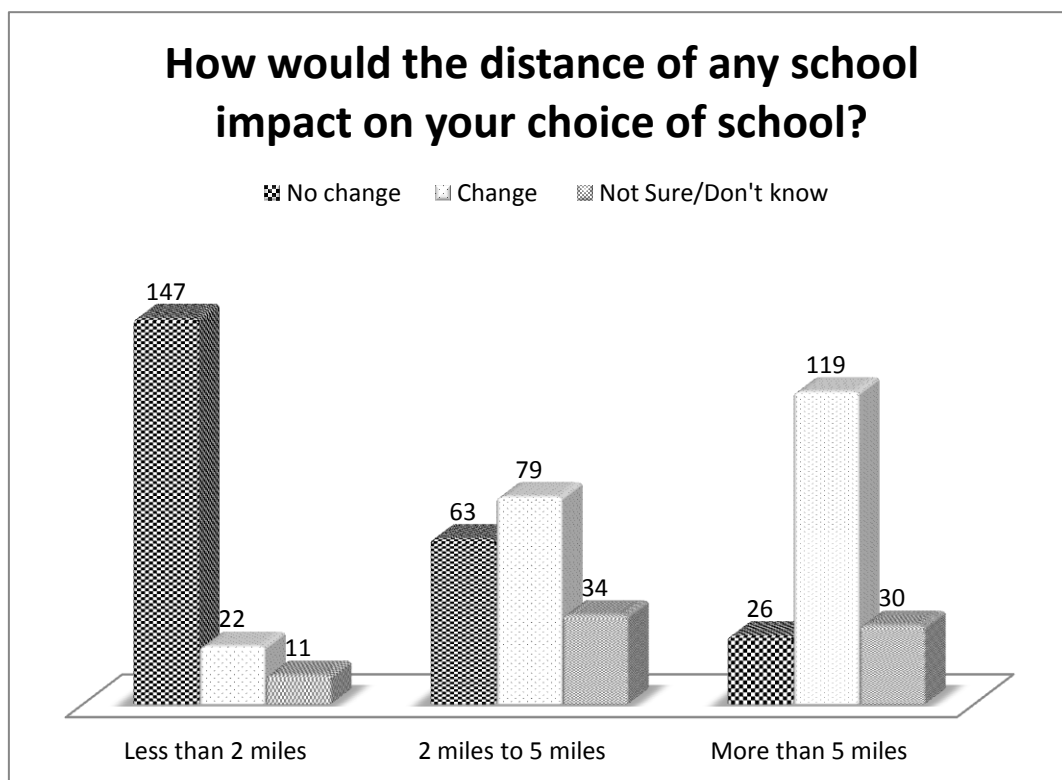
School	No. of Respondents	School	No. of Respondents
Ysgol Borthyn	15	Ysgol Gellifor	14
Ysgol Bro Famau	20	Ysgol Llanbedr	18
Ysgol Clocaenog	11	Ysgol Llanfair DC	18
Ysgol Cyffylliog	10	Ysgol Pentrecelyn	17
Ysgol Pen Barras	38	Rhos Street School	27
Ysgol Rhewl	7		
Total			195

2.2 The questionnaire asked parents to rank a total of 8 factors that they determined to have the most influence on their choice of school (*with 1 being the most and 8 being the least*), the results are as follows;

Influencing Factor	Average
Quality of education	1.9
Distance from your home	3.6
Welsh Medium Education	4.2
Size of school	4.6
Another child already at the school	4.9
Ease of access/transport to school	5
Quality of school buildings	5.2
Faith provision	6.5

**172 of the 195 respondents answered the question in full*

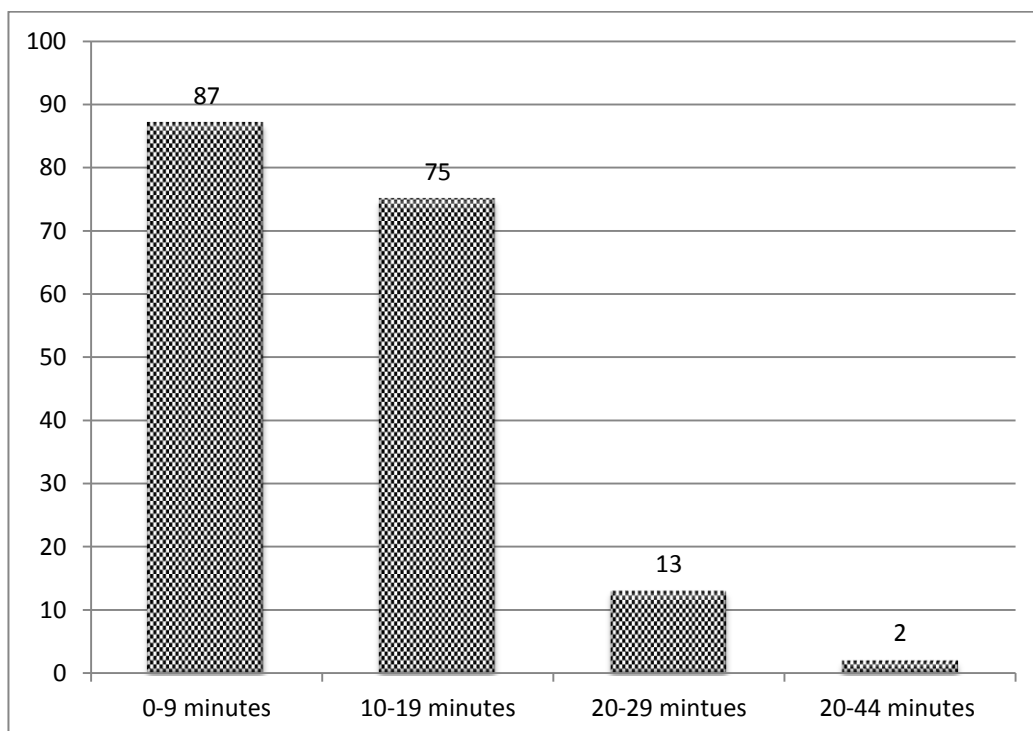
2.3 Question 5 of the questionnaire asked parents to indicate what distance would have an impact on their choice of school, the result are displayed below;



2.4 If respondents answered 'Change' to the above question they were asked to explain why; they key themes identified from their responses are as follows;

- **21.97%** of respondents stated that a school within walking distance of their home was an important factor (29 of 132 respondents)
- **10.60%** of respondents stated that travelling a further distance than they currently do would impact on their work commitments (14 of 132 respondents)
- **8.33%** of respondents stated that an increased journey time would impact on extra-curricular activities i.e. breakfast club, after school club and other child care arrangements (11 of 132 respondents)
- **6.82%** of respondents stated that an increased journey time would impact on extra-curricular activities i.e. breakfast club and other child care arrangements (11 of 132 respondents)

2.5 Respondents were asked to indicate which journey time they considered to be acceptable each way; the results were as follows;



2.6 Question 8 provided an opportunity for respondents to highlight any other issues that they felt were pertinent to the review. A full breakdown of the key thematic issues to arise are outlined in the tables below on an individual school bases (issues that correspond to more than one school are set out later in the document);

2.6.1 Ysgol Borthyn

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Quality of education and of the teaching staff at Ysgol Borthyn	9
2	Faith provision	7
3	Family ethos at the school	5
4	Closure of Ysgol Borthyn would impact on the community	2
5	Provision of English Medium Education	1
6	Support for SEN pupils	1

*12 respondents for Ysgol Borthyn

2.6.2 Ysgol Bro Famau

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Quality of education and teaching staff at Ysgol Bro Famau	5
2	Community links and involvement	4
3	Would not want children going on school transport	1
4	Mixed/small class sizes positive for pupils	1
5	Wrap-around-care provision	1

*14 respondents for Ysgol Bro Famau

2.6.3 Ysgol Clocaenog

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Community links and involvement	4
2	New school build required	4
3	Welsh medium education provision is important in the area	1
4	Outstanding school with good level of education	1
5	Wouldn't want children going to large town school	1

*7 respondents for Ysgol Clocaenog

2.6.4 Ysgol Cyffylliog

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Federation - one head for both schools would be the way forward	4
2	New school required in the Hiraethog area if the status quo cannot be maintained	4
3	Would not send children to town school	3
4	Quality of education and teaching staff	3
5	Bilingual provision important factor	2
6	Community impact if school closed	2
7	Wrap-around-care provision	1
8	Extension for Ysgol Cyffylliog	1

*8 respondents for Ysgol Cyffylliog

2.6.5 Ysgol Gellifor

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Quality of education and teaching staff	7
2	Wrap-around-care provision	4
3	Good Estyn reports demonstrate high standard of education	3
4	Community links are strong	3
5	Distance of school would not be a priority	1
6	Bryn Clwyd should also be included within the review	1

*10 respondents for Ysgol Gellifor

2.6.6 Ysgol Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Faith provision and church involvement	12
2	Provision of wrap-around-care	12
3	Location of school - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, unique	10
4	Excellent standard of education and teaching	8
5	English medium education important factor	7
6	Excellent facilities at the school	5
7	Past issues at the school need to be taken into account for current low pupil numbers	5
8	Community links and involvement	5
9	Small class sizes	3
10	Proposal to extend and future vision for school; fully support	3

*15 respondents for Ysgol Llanbedr

2.6.7 Ysgol Llanfair DC

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Bilingualism key factor	12
2	New school building for Ysgol Llanfair DC	11
3	Faith provision and church involvement is important element	7
4	Faith provision is not essential	6
5	Small class sizes	5
6	Issues such as health and safety concerns at current site	4
7	Community links and involvement are important	2
8	Excellent school and standard of education	2
9	Against federation or amalgamation with Pentrecelyn	1

*14 respondents for Ysgol Llanfair DC

2.6.8. Ysgol Pen Barras

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Issues with current shared site i.e. health and safety, condition of buildings on PB site	15
2	New separate site required for Pen Barras	11
3	Mobile classrooms are an issues especially with pupils having to cross the yard in all weather	7
4	Excellent standard of education and teaching	5
5	Welsh medium education provision	4
6	Wrap-around-care provision	3

**24 respondents for Ysgol Pen Barras*

2.6.9 Ysgol Pentrecelyn

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Provision of Welsh medium education in rural area is important for sustainability	10
2	Community links with the school	5
3	Excellent standard of education and teaching	5
4	Small class sizes for pupils	3
5	Against a federation or merger with another school	1
6	Journey times and distances need to be taken into account; long enough	1

**14 respondents for Ysgol Pentrecelyn*

2.6.10 Rhos Street School

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	Parity between schools regarding allocation of funding for schools; if spent on one school it would be unfair	6
2	Good standard of education and teaching at Rhos Street	5
3	Issues at the current shared site such as health and safety and shared resources such as school canteen and hall	5
4	Community links and involvement	3
5	Would not want class sizes to be any larger than they are at present i.e. through a merger	2

**19 respondents for Rhos Street School*

2.6.11 Ysgol Rhewl

No.	Point/Issue Raised	No. of respondents who raised issue
1	<i>Community</i> links and involvement	3
2	<i>Excellent standard of education</i> and teaching at Ysgol Rhewl	3
3	<i>Small class sizes</i> are beneficial for the pupils	2
4	<i>Wrap-around-care</i> provision	1

**7 respondents for Ysgol Rhewl*

***144 respondents in total*

2.7 A number of the issues raised in the questionnaire responses are pertinent to more than one school; for example issues surrounding the shared site between Ysgol Pen Barras and Rhos Street School. Below is a summary of the cross response analysis;

- **Rhos Street Site:** Of the 43 Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras respondents 20 of them indicated that the current shared site was challenging with issues such as parking facilities, shared hall, canteen and available recreational space not being adequate for the number of pupils on site.
- **Excellent standard of education and teaching:** 56 respondents indicated that they believed their chosen school provided a quality education and also had a high standard of teaching staff.
- **Wrap-around-care provision:** 22 respondents indicated that the provision of affordable and quality wrap-around-care was an important factor when choosing a school.
- **Federation/amalgamation/new school in Clocaenog & Cyffylliog:** 10 of the 15 respondents for Ysgol Clocaenog and Ysgol Cyffylliog suggested a federation or new school for the area, and were also keen to stress this should be in a 'fair' location within the area.

3. Letters and Emails Received

3.1 In total 63 letters and email were received during the informal consultation period; the table below displays the breakdown of these responses by school;

School/Review	No. of Letters, Emails
Ysgol Borthyn	3
Ysgol Bro Famau	0
Ysgol Clocaenog	13
Ysgol Cyffylliog	2
Ysgol Gellifor & Ysgol Bryn Clwyd	7
Ysgol Llanbedr DC	11
Ysgol Llanfair DC	6
Ysgol Pen Barras	5
Ysgol Pentrecelyn	3
Rhos Street School	5
Ysgol Rhewl	4
General comments	3
Diocese response	1

3.2 The table below outlines the key issues that were raised within the letter and email responses;

No.	Issue Raised	% of respondents who raised issue
1	Faith based educational provision is an important factor when choosing a school	9
2	Teaching standards in Ysgol Borthyn are high	3
3	School is involved with the community/school closure would impact on the community	26
4	Pentrecelyn school has good facilities	2
5	Welsh medium education and Welsh language considerations	13
6	Ysgol Bryn Clwyd should be included within the review due to the successful federation with Ysgol Gellifor	6
7	Support for Ysgol Clocaenog to have a larger school or area school to serve Hiraethog area	8
8	Support for new school for Ysgol Llanfair DC	7
9	Recent issues at Ysgol Llanbedr should be taken into consideration when looking at current	6
10	Wrap-around-care provision	6
11	Ysgol Llanbedr DC is in a good location, AONB	8
12	Issues with the current shared site for Rhos Street School and Ysgol Pen Barras	9

13	If there is a new school built within Ruthin funding should be spent equal to ensure parity within the area i.e. bring other buildings up to the same standard	4
14	Support for new site for Ysgol Pen Barras	8
15	Bilingual education is an important factor when choosing a school	8
16	Effect school closure will have on pupils	1
17	Educational provision should not be centralised within the town	1
18	Issues surrounding school transport; would not send young children and additional journey times and distances would have negative effect	4
19	Ysgol Cyffylliog has a high standard of education	2
20	Small class sizes are an important factor when choosing a school; better suited for some pupils	4
21	Excellent standards at Ysgol Gellifor	4
22	English medium education is an important factor when choosing a school	2
23	Excellent teaching standards and attainment at Ysgol Rhewl	4
24	Ysgol Llanbedr provides good facilities especially with outside space for play e.g. astro-turf	5
25	Affect the Local Development Plan will have on pupil numbers in Ysgol Llanbedr	5
26	Support for a larger school (capacity 84) in Ysgol Llanbedr	3
27	Issue with the published capacity and projected pupil numbers in Ysgol Pentrecelyn	1
28	Excellent standards at Rhos Street School	3
29	Against a merger between Ysgol Llanfair DC and Ysgol Pentrecelyn due to language and faith issues	3
30	Support for federations and area schools in rural areas rather than closures	1

4. Proposals Received from Individual Schools

4.1 During the informal consultation period three schools and Cyfeillion Pen Barras (*Friends of Pen Barras*) submitted outline plans for the future of their schools. This section will provide a summary regarding each proposal and the evidence that has been supplied to support it.

4.2 Ysgol Clocaenog

4.2.1 The Governors of Clocaenog CP School submitted a feasibility report proposing the expansion of Ysgol Clocaenog as the school has reached its maximum capacity with 36 full time pupils currently on roll with projections for 2018 suggesting an increase to 48 pupils. ISP Architects Ltd. carried out a feasibility survey on the 19th of February, as a result of the survey the school Governors have requested that 3 options are considered, these are:-

- The current school site is extended to provide capacity for 80 pupils with a full refurbishment of the existing facilities (Site A)
- A new primary school on a nearby greenfield site (Site B)
- A new primary school on a greenfield site across the road from the existing school site (Site C)

4.3 Ysgol Llanfair DC

4.3.1 The Headteacher, staff and Governing Body of Ysgol Llanfair DC submitted a response for a new school building for Ysgol Llanfair DC. A presentation was submitted in support of this which highlighted issues such as;

- The school is oversubscribed with 90 full time pupils currently on roll with an overall capacity number of 83.
- There is currently no school hall, a lack of canteen facilities with many children having to eat at their desks.
- An extension would not be feasible on the current site as it would not be able to accommodate the necessary facilities required. A new school site on the Glebe land would be preferred.

4.4 Ysgol Llanbedr DC

4.4.1 The school and Governing Body of Ysgol Llanbedr DC submitted a proposal for an extension to the current school building and the existing Victorian school house to be refurbished to provide a 'modern hub' to provide an overall capacity for 84 Full Time pupils. The proposal highlighted that the current pupil numbers at the school (*Numbers on Roll 2013: 21 Full Time Pupils*) was a result of 'extraordinary events'; the submission also drew attention to the full time pupil average for 2004-2011 which was 61.5.

4.5 Cyfeillion Ysgol Pen Barras

4.5.1 Friends of Pen Barras submitted a 'Case for Change' report* in support of a new site and facility for Ysgol Pen Barras. The report outlines a number of issues in support of this recommendation which includes;

- A number of concerns regarding health and safety on the shared site which was highlighted by Estyn in 2005.
- Concerns regarding the high volume of mobile accommodation for pupils with one unit having no water supply or toilet facility for pupils.
- Restricted parking available on site leading to traffic management issues around the site.
- The above issues will be further intensified with a projected increase in pupil numbers at the school due to increased demand for Welsh medium education within the town.
- The current building and facilities are not fit for purpose with the overall condition of the school building being poor however educational attainment and standards at the school remain high.

**In addition to the Cyfeillion Ysgol Pen Barras report 15 expressions of support were also received by email or post.*

5. Other Responses from Interested Parties

5.1 30 Community Questionnaires from Llanbedr were received within the Ysgol Llanbedr response, below is a summary of the key thematic issues that were raised;

- **Provision of a Church within the village:** 17 respondents indicated this was an important factor for the area.
- **Location of the school:** 9 of respondents indicated that the location and surrounding environment of the school was a positive element for the pupils.
- **Recent events at the school concerning leadership:** 3 respondents indicated that recent events at the school had greatly impacted upon the

current pupil numbers however they believed this would not be the case in the future.

- **Links and involvement with the local community:** 11 respondents indicated that the school had strong links with the community and pupils were involved within community events.
- **English Medium education:** 5 respondents stated that the provision of an English medium primary school was required within the village.
- **Quality of education:** 6 respondents stated that the school provided a quality education with good educational attainment.

5.2 Ysgol Pentrecelyn

The Governing Body of Ysgol Pentrecelyn submitted a response to the Ruthin Review as part of the consultation process highlighting aspects of the school such as language category, location of the school and future pupil numbers. In addition to the submission 61 signatures were also received in support of the Pentrecelyn Governing Body response.

Annex A

Having your say on the future of primary school provision in the Ruthin area

Q1 Which school are your children currently attending?

<i>Ysgol Borthyn</i>		<i>Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd</i>	
<i>Ysgol Bro Famau, Llanarmon yn Ial & Llanferres (two sites)</i>		<i>Ysgol Pen Barras</i>	
<i>Ysgol Clocaenog</i>		<i>Ysgol Pentrecelyn</i>	
<i>Ysgol Cyffylliog</i>		<i>Rhos Street School</i>	
<i>Ysgol Gellifor</i>		<i>Ysgol Rhewl</i>	
<i>Ysgol Llanbedr</i>			

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

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

Q3 From the list below please rank the factors below from 1 to 8 (please do not repeat numbers) in the order that would have the most influence (1 being the most and 8 being the least)

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

Q4 Please confirm your home postcode

Q5 How would the distance of any school from your home impact on your choice of School?

	<i>No Change</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Not Sure/ don't know</i>
<i>Less than 2 miles</i>			
<i>2 miles to 5 miles</i>			
<i>More than 5 miles</i>			

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

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Q7 The authority provides free transport for pupils of statutory age attending Primary Schools if the child resides over 2 miles from the nearest suitable Schools

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

<i>0-9 minutes</i>	<i>10-19 minutes</i>	<i>20-29 minutes</i>	<i>30-44 minutes</i>

Q8 Please detail any other issues you may wish to raise

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

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

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

**Please return to Modernising Education Team, Denbighshire County Council
County Hall, Wynnstey Road, Ruthin, LL15 1YN**

Annex B

Responses to Question 8 (Redacted)