



**Wrexham County Borough Council**

**Post Consultation Document**

**Proposal to consult on the Dee Valley Federation of Schools**

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Publication of Consultation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
List of Consultees .....	5
Communications Campaign.....	6
<b>Consultation Sessions</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Timetable of Drop-In Sessions.....	7
<b>Consultation Feedback</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Respondents.....	9
Online Survey Responses from Adults .....	10
Online Survey Responses from Children and Young People .....	10
<b>School Councils</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Feedback from School Council-Froncysyllte CP .....	11
Written Comments from the School Council-Froncysyllte CP .....	11
Feedback from School Council-Garth CP .....	11
Written Comments from the School Council-Garth CP .....	12
Feedback from School Council-Pentre CIW VC School .....	12
Written Comments from the School Council-Pentre CIW VC School.....	12
<b>Feedback from Estyn</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Introduction .....	13
Description and Benefits.....	13

Educational Aspects of the Proposal .....	14
Summary/Conclusion.....	14
<b>Feedback from Teaching Union-NASUWT Cymru .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Conclusion.....	14
<b>Letter from Steve Witherden MP.....</b>	<b>15</b>
Verdict .....	15
<b>Feedback from Emails .....</b>	<b>15</b>
Email 1.....	15
Email 2.....	15
Email 3.....	16
Email 4.....	16
<b>Consultation Themes .....</b>	<b>16</b>
Welsh Language.....	18
Treating Everybody Fairly .....	19
Carbon.....	20
<b>Equality Monitoring Data-‘About You’.....</b>	<b>21</b>
Age .....	22
Sex .....	23
Gender Reassignment.....	23
Race-National Identity .....	24
Disability .....	24

Carer.....	25
Language.....	25
Race-Ethnicity.....	26
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief) .....	27
Marriage and Civil Partnership.....	27
Pregnancy and Maternity.....	28
Sexual Orientation .....	28
Socio-Economic Deprivation-Means Tested Benefits.....	29
Socio-Economic Deprivation-Disability Benefits .....	29
Electoral Ward .....	30
<b>Survey Quality Monitoring Questions .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Impact Assessments .....</b>	<b>34</b>
Integrated Impact Assessment .....	34
Welsh Language Impact Assessment.....	34
Community Impact Assessment .....	34
Transport Impact Assessment .....	34
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Overall Summary of Findings .....</b>	<b>35</b>
In support of the proposal .....	35
Not in support of the proposal.....	35
Unsure .....	35

<b>Conclusion and Local Authority Response</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>Executive Board Decision</b> .....	<b>36</b>

## Introduction

Wrexham County Borough Council has recently completed a period of public consultation in relation to the Dee Valley Federation of Schools.

The public consultation period began on **23 September 2025** and ended on **7 November 2025**.

The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which requires the School Organisation Code 2018 to be adhered to and gives guidance to relevant bodies (Local Authorities, Governing Bodies). This document sets out the steps taken during the formal consultation period, refer to findings obtained during the consultation and aim to answer queries that have been put to the Local Authority.

## Publication of Consultation

The consultation began with the bilingual publication of the Consultation Document on 23 September 2025 on the Council's website and the Council's online consultation platform 'Your Voice'. Links to the documents were emailed to the full list of consultees. The detail below sets out the list of recipients, as guided by the School Organisation Code (2018), who received a copy of, or were directed to the Consultation Document during the consultation period.

### List of Consultees

A range of individuals were asked for their views about the proposal including:

- Elected Members of Wrexham County Borough Council
- The Church in Wales and Catholic Dioceses
- Other Local Authorities: Flintshire County Council, Shropshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council, Powys County Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- The Governing Body at Dee Valley Federation
- All Wrexham School Governing Bodies, including Welsh medium schools, English medium schools, Faith schools and Special schools.
- All Wrexham Primary and Secondary Schools, including Welsh medium schools, English medium schools, Faith schools and Special schools.
- Parents/Carers (and prospective parents/carers) of Dee Valley Federation
- Staff members at Dee Valley Federation

- Llangollen Rural Community Council
- Chirk Town Community Council
- The Welsh in Education Forum, including Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam, RhAG and Mudiad Meithrin
- Welsh Ministers and Senedd Members: Lesley Griffiths MS, Ken Skates MS, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Mark Isherwood MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Sam Rowlands MS
- Local Members of Parliament: Andrew Ranger MP, Gill German MP, Becky Gittins MP
- Estyn
- Trade Unions representing teachers and staff at Dee Valley Federation
- Wrexham Council's School Transport Department
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Local Communities First Partnerships
- Local Independent Nursery Providers, Playgroups, Childminders and Flying Start Providers
- The Children and Young People's Partnership
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership

The above list is not exhaustive, and the consultation was open to all who wished to take part.

In undertaking the consultation, we used a range of methods to engage with people. We collected both quantitative and qualitative data. Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by completing an online survey, a hard copy consultation form or by emailing or writing to the Education & Early Intervention Department. Responses could be submitted electronically or in hard copy paper format. The consultation document was available in languages other than Welsh or English upon request. It was also available in accessible formats such as large print, Braille, BSL DVD and audio-CD upon request.

### **Communications Campaign**

The consultation was widely promoted throughout the consultation period using a variety of methods which included:

- A 'Your Voice' banner on the WCBC website
- QR codes provided to access the survey
- Information circulated via WCBC's social media platforms
- Information circulated via Wrexham Council News blog
- Information circulated via WCBC's Involvement Bulletin
- A local area poster campaign
- Distribution of Consultation Booklets

There were a number of ways in which people could respond to the public consultation:

- A survey (online and paper).
- A number of drop-in sessions at Froncysyllte Community Council.
- A designated email account was established for people to raise any queries / submit their views.
- Virtual sessions for those who could not attend face to face sessions.
- Specific sessions with pupils from the School Council at each of the 3 schools.

## Consultation Sessions

As part of the public consultation process, two face-to-face engagement sessions were held by Education Officers at Froncysyllte Community Centre. All attendees received information about the proposal, had the opportunity to ask questions and were asked to provide feedback to the consultation. There were several ways in which this communication could be made. Virtual drop-in sessions were also offered during the consultation.

### Timetable of Drop-In Sessions

Date	Type of Session	Venue	Number of attendees
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Drop-In Session open to all	Froncysyllte Community Centre	7
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2025	Drop-In Session for staff, parents and governors at all 3 schools by appointment	Froncysyllte Community Centre	3
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Virtual Sessions open to all by appointment	Online	2

## Consultation Feedback

During the public consultation period Wrexham County Borough Council received the following responses:

<b>Format of Response</b>	<b>Number of Responses Received</b>	<b>Support Proposal</b>	<b>Do Not Support Proposal</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
Adult Survey Online Responses	14	8	5	1
Children and Young People Survey Online Responses	25	15	4	6
School Council Froncysyllte Hard Copies	4	0	3	1
School Council Garth Hard Copies	5	1	0	4
School Council Pentre Hard Copies	6	2	1	3
Letter by email from Estyn	1	1	0	0
Letter by email from Teaching Union - NASUWT Cymru	1	1	0	0
Letter by email from Steve Witherden MP	1	1	0	0
Email responses received from individuals	4	3	1	0

<b>Format of Response</b>	<b>Number of Responses Received</b>	<b>Support Proposal</b>	<b>Do Not Support Proposal</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
<b>Total Responses Received</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

### **Respondents**

A breakdown of respondents to the adult online survey is set out below:

<b>Who Responded</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
Member of Staff	1
Member of the Local Community	3
Member of the Wider Community	1
Parent/Carer/Guardian Froncysyllte CP	2
Parent/Carer/Guardian Garth CP	1
Parent/Carer/Guardian Pentre CIW VC School	3
Governor	1
Other	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

### **Online Survey Responses from Adults**

In response to the question 'Do you support this proposal?' 8 out of 14 respondents to the adult survey were in favour of the proposal, 5 out of 14 respondents were not in favour of the proposal and 1 out of 14 respondents said they didn't know how they felt about the proposal.

Responses to the free text question 'please let us know why you do or do not support the proposed changes' have been analysed and themes have been identified-please refer to the 'Consultation Themes' section.

### **Online Survey Responses from Children and Young People**

In response to the question 'How do you feel about our idea?' 15 out of 25 children and young people said they were in favour of the proposal, 4 out of 25 children and young people said they were not in favour of the proposal and 6 out of 25 children and young people said they didn't know how they felt about the proposal.

We also asked children and young people to provide comments if they wished to do so. 10 children and young people chose to answer the free text question. Comments are included below:

- "Happy"
- "I feel fine about it"
- "Because we should have children coming to pentre and Garth"
- "Because we could be a slightly larger school"
- "I feel that option 2 is the best and should have the most potential of happening for helping the teachers with suffering finances"
- "I think front should close"
- "I like this school"
- "I don't like it because I basically grew up in this school I have been in this school for 3 in a half-years and I don't want to go to any other school"
- "I feel you should keep it open because we would have to buy new school uniforms"
- "Sad"

## School Councils

During the consultation Local Authority Officers met with the School Councils at each of the schools in the Federation.

Date	Type of Session	Venue	Number of attendees
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	School Council	Froncysyllte CP	4 children
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	School Council	Garth CP	5 children
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	School Council	Pentre CIW VC School	6 children

During the School Council sessions, the children were asked if they had seen copies of the consultation document. Officers explained what the consultation was about, and the children were encouraged to ask any questions and share ideas that they may have.

### Feedback from School Council-Froncysyllte CP

In response to the question ‘Do you understand our idea?’ 3 out of 4 pupils said they did understand our idea and 1 out of 4 pupils said they were not sure if they understand our idea.

In response to the question ‘How do you feel about our idea?’ 3 out of 4 pupils said they did not like the idea and 1 out of 4 pupils said they did not know if they liked the idea.

### Written Comments from the School Council-Froncysyllte CP

- “I feel sad because I don’t want to go to another school. I feel happy here. My friends are here. I would love it to stay open.”
- “I feel sad because I like it in this schools. I have freads”
- “we like the school because we do lost of stuff and we could not go on many trips if we were a big school. And I feel sad because I love this school more than any other school and I don’t want to leave un til I am In year 6. And we are friends in this school. And it’s fun in here, because we go on lots of trips.”
- “I think that we should keep the school open because some people might not have the money to buy new uniforms. I feel sad because I’ve like the school and it is fun.”

### Feedback from School Council-Garth CP

In response to the question ‘Do you understand our idea?’ 5 out of 5 pupils said they did understand our idea.

In response to the question 'How do you feel about our idea?' 1 out of 5 pupils said they liked the idea and 4 out of 5 pupils said they did not know if they liked the idea.

#### **Written Comments from the School Council-Garth CP**

- "I don't like option 3 because I don't like crowds and I just moved here and I love it. I don't really want to move again. But I like option 2 but if there's ok with it."
- "I do not mind if from comes to Garth just keep the little school stay the same"
- "I don't like option 3 because I don't like crowds. And you have to walk up loads of stairs I like option 2 only if ok with it"
- "Stay the same! I love how it is now. I don't mind if from come here but it depends what they think. But I love how it is NOW!"
- "I think that we should stay exactly the same and not change anything. I do not like option three, because I love this school and I think it is not a good idea at all! And it will cost a lot of money and we will have to miss school for a few days. I am not entirely sure about option 2. Because from might not be happy."

#### **Feedback from School Council-Pentre CIW VC School**

In response to the question 'Do you understand our idea?' 5 out of 6 pupils said they did understand our idea and 1 out of 6 pupils said they did not understand our idea.

In response to the question 'How do you feel about our idea?' 2 out of 6 pupils said they liked the idea and 1 out of 6 pupils said they did not like the idea and 3 out of 6 pupils said they did not know if they liked the idea.

#### **Written Comments from the School Council-Pentre CIW VC School**

- "Keep our school"
- "Keep all of the schools"
- "I prefer option 2 because it would not make too much of a commotion"
- "I think the children in from should go to any school that they want but I depend where they live."
- "I prefer the second option. Why money to put the third option to risky we could lose people. Not enough staff for all the children. It's only one school that can't run properly so what's the point."
- "I prefer number two and get rid of from"

## **Feedback from Estyn**

Estyn's response to the proposal to consult on the Dee Valley Federation of schools with the preferred option to close Froncysyllte Community Primary school. This report has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

### **Introduction**

Wrexham County Borough Council are holding a formal consultation on the future of the Dee Valley Federation of schools within which, they are proposing to close Froncysyllte Community Primary School from 1 September 2026. The County Borough Council have opened this consultation in response to falling pupil numbers within the local authority and a high percentage of surplus places in the Dee Valley Federation of schools. Projections of pupil numbers in Ysgol Froncysyllte over the next 5 years predict that there will be no full-time pupils in the school by 2029/30.

### **Description and Benefits**

Wrexham County Borough Council have set out a clear rationale for bringing the proposal forward. It intends to address the decreasing demand for school places within the federation. The proposal also states that the condition of underused buildings can deteriorate, increasing maintenance costs. The consultation document sets out the potential benefits and disadvantages to the preferred option clearly. The consultation document sets out clearly both the cost implications and sustainability of running the federation of schools in its current form, and the deficit budget the federation currently has, which stands at £62,357. By closing Froncysyllte Primary School, Garth and Pentre primary schools would receive an additional budget allocation of £20,880 for the five pupils transferring from Froncysyllte. The consultation document sets out the alternatives to the proposal clearly, including keeping the status quo. It gives detailed reasons as to why the alternative options have been discounted. However, it is not possible to predict with accuracy what might happen with regards to increases or decreases in pupil applications for school places over time. Regarding option 3, the proposal does not appear to have considered the option to use one of the existing school sites. The local authority has provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of the consultation. The local authority has considered the possible risks of the proposal as part of the School Risk Management Strategy. It states that by monitoring and ensuring there is a robust approach to the risks, the impact on pupils, parents, carers, teachers and support staff can be minimised. This appears to be reasonable.

## **Educational Aspects of the Proposal**

The proposer identifies fairly that if a pupil attends one of the other local schools, they will benefit from a similar curriculum. However, the proposal does not identify clearly enough the impact on standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning and care support and guidance. The consultation does not make clear how the council will ensure that pupils with additional learning needs will be supported. In relation to leadership and management, the consultation states that should the proposal be implemented, the headteacher would have responsibility for two schools in the Federation rather than three. The council states that this would enable the headteacher to have more capacity to focus on leadership and management at the remaining schools. This appears to be reasonable. The consultation includes a Welsh Impact Assessment. The document states that as each school is an English medium school, the proposed change will have minimal impact on the Welsh language. The council feels that it is therefore unlikely to enhance or diminish Welsh-medium provision. The consultation refers to the local authority's WESP objectives to minimize and mitigate any potential impacts from the proposal on the Welsh language. The consultation considers the potential travel impact that losing Ysgol Froncysyllte will have on vulnerable groups of pupils, including pupils with additional needs. However, it does not consider the potential travel costs for those pupils from low income households who currently do not need transport to attend Ysgol Froncysyllte. The consultation document sets out clearly the consultation process and timeline along with who will be consulted. The community, parents and pupils can express their views by attending one of the planned consultation meetings or alternatively, by completing an online survey or expressing their views in a letter or email. A supplementary version of this consultation document has been made available to all pupils in Wrexham to enable them to give their views. Sessions with the respective School Councils will be undertaken during the consultation period. The consultation includes links to the most recent Estyn inspection report for each school. However, it would be useful for the reader to have the key outcomes of each inspection report noted within the document. The local authority does not provide its view on the current standards of education within the schools mentioned.

## **Summary/Conclusion**

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to maintain the standard of provision in the area. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient information on the quality and standards of education of the schools mentioned within the consultation.

## **Feedback from Teaching Union-NASUWT Cymru**

### **Conclusion**

The NASUWT's position is that Fron has exercised a vampiric effect on Garth and Pentre V.C., straining their viability and the viability of the federation as a whole. However, Garth and Pentre V.C. are very much viable, if relieved of the need to prop up Fron and this is why the NASUWT offers our full-throated endorsement and support for Option 2.

We note that the consultation documentation states that Option 2 is also the Local Authority's most favoured option. However, the NASUWT also respectfully requests that the Local offer their full-throated support-accompanied by actions-to the two remaining sites of the DVF, Garth and Pentre V.C.

## **Letter from Steve Witherden MP**

I would like to agree with the preferred proposal of the three and support the Local Authority by offering my full endorsement and support to **Option 2**. To be explicitly clear, I would oppose any down-grading or closure at Pentre.

For the avoidance of any doubt, I would also oppose any down-grading or closure at Garth, which-whilest [just] outside of the constituency-is vital to many families in my constituency (Garth is the closest primary school to my constituency not in my constituency).

### **Verdict**

I do not view Froncystylle as remaining sustainable or viable in these circumstances. However, I do view both Pentre and Garth as very much remaining viable and sustainable, if supported appropriately.

## **Feedback from Emails**

3 out of 4 email respondents were in favour of the proposal and 1 out of 4 email respondents was not in favour of the proposal.

### **Email 1**

"Our [child's identity redacted] is very upset at the thought of this school closing, it is affecting [child's identity redacted] mental health and wellbeing.

[Child's identity redacted] has been in this school for [number of years redacted] and feels safe and happy there.. [Child's identity redacted] appreciates all the teachers and the amazing standard of teaching.."

### **Email 2**

"No alternative than to close Fron Primary School, ridiculas to keep open with only 11 pupils never mind 4 this year."

### Email 3

“I have read the Statutory Consultation Document and visited the Community Centre today to meet with Wrexham Council Staff. While it is sad to see village schools closing, as there are no village children attending Fron School, it really does seem that Option 2, to close the school is the only sensible idea.”

### Email 4

“I wish to put forward my support for the option of closing Froncysyllte school as soon as possible. The remaining children that are there are obviously not getting a good all round education. It is impossible to teach a whole key stage the same lessons during the school day. The pupils will never get the chance to form peer groups before transferring to secondary school and will not benefit from the healthy competition that is needed to promote teaching and learning. These children have very limited facilities and will never get the chance to participate in such things as team games during PE lessons. The location of the school does not lend itself to modern cars accessing the site to drop off pupils and in bad weather it is frequently closed. The financial implications of keeping it open are great. The site and building could be sold and the money spent on other local schools. It is time to put sentimentality to one side and close this school.”

## Consultation Themes

Feedback from comments to the adult online survey, emails and drop-in sessions have been analysed. The following 8 themes were identified:

Theme	Feedback
Ensure viability of Pentre and Garth Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. “if by closing Froncysyllte as it has become unsustainable helps make both Ysgol Y Garth and Ysgol Pentre more secure then I support this option”</li><li>2. “a longer term outcome is to ensure viability of Pentre and Garth”</li></ol>
There will be an adverse impact on the Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. “It [Froncysyllte] is a school of historical importance and closure will further add to the lack of a “community” in the upper village”</li><li>2. “I believe these small community schools are so important for our communities”</li></ol>

Provide Flexischooling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "So many children are being home educated please consider flexi as an opportunity to keep them in the system and checked on"</li> <li>2. "I understand that the school is not viable but do believe that if the Federation had allowed flexi-school pupils. This should be considered for the remaining schools to boost numbers"</li> </ol>
There will be improved learning outcomes for pupils	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "learning outcomes for said pupils would be optimised"</li> <li>2. "leaners specific needs will be met in relation to age"</li> </ol>
Concerns about wrap around care being moved to another school in the Federation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Froncysyllte has offered an excellent provision in the area but has been hampered by offerings like the after-school club being moved to another site (several miles away) with no means to transport the children the chosen site"</li> <li>2. "Of the 3 school Fron was the only one to keep its wrap around care but the new build being in Garth and without the transport to ferry children from Fron has poached children and this wasn't fair, transport should have been provided."</li> </ol>
Concerns about lack of housing in Froncysyllte	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "No New housing estates have been created in the village to bring in new families."</li> <li>2. "The council stock of housing is so small - few 3 beds so we lost families."</li> </ol>
The school field should be kept for community use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "I would urge Wrexham CBC to maintain the school field in Froncysyllte as a community resource. The field is subject to a covenant for recreational / community use."</li> <li>2. "The school field is community field with a covenant. I want this field to remain in the community, past, present and future. It is an important feature of the village, it is not dependent on the role at the school or whether or not the school is open or closed."</li> </ol>

Ideas/questions about the future use of Froncysyllte school building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "I would like to know what the long term thoughts of Wrexham Council are regards the building once the school has closed."</li> <li>2. "I think that the building could be used for flats/accommodation"</li> </ol>
--	---

## Welsh Language

We also asked people for their ideas to promote the use of the Welsh language and ensure it is treated no less favourably than the English language in the delivery of the proposal. Not all respondents chose to answer the Welsh Language section in the survey.

10 respondents chose to answer the free text question 'In your opinion, what positive effects would the proposal under consideration have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. Comments are included below:

- "Opportunity to sustain Welsh language and culture in Pentre and Garth schools"
- "positive effect"
- "There is no opportunity for welsh language there"
- "None"
- "There will be less Welsh spoken in the village unless alternative provision is made in Froncysyllte itself"
- "according the the new Welsh curriculum and Development plans of Primary schools, it is most likely to reach higher learning outcomes toward the Welsh language"
- "If there is no school in the village then incidental Welsh usage in the village will go down!"
- "Closing the school will have no positive effect on Welsh language, in fact it will reduce its usage. The current school and teacher do lots of incidental Welsh"
- "The children use Welsh everyday and it's good for their heritage"
- "None"

8 respondents chose to answer the free text question 'In your opinion, what adverse effects would the policy decision under consideration have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. Comments are included below:

- "None"
- "It would be sad to have an empty building in the area but our children's education means more"

- “There will be less Welsh spoken in the village unless alternative provision is made in Froncysyllte itself”
- “no adverse affects likely”
- “Closing the school will have no positive effect on Welsh language, in fact it will reduce its usage. The current school and teacher do lots of incidental Welsh and losing Welsh spoken daily at school has an adverse impact”
- “They treat Welsh as important as English”
- “None”
- “Mental health of the pupils and staff in the school now”

6 respondents chose to answer the free text question ‘How do you think the policy under consideration could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive effects, or more positive effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. Comments are included below:

- “use money saved from school closure to purchase resources for other schools”
- “Close all three schools and move to one well funded school”
- “Provision for Welsh language learning could be made for the community in Froncysyllte”
- “a higher volume of pupils in class give more opportunities to learn, practice and retain the Welsh language. Bigger primary settings have more funding opportunities for Welsh learner programs”
- “The current teacher did a sabbatical year to learn Welsh so use of Welsh in the school with its Criw Cymraeg is excellent. Don't lose that!”
- “Regular Welsh lessons”

4 respondents chose to answer the free text question ‘How do you think the policy under consideration could be formulated or revised so that it would not have adverse effects, or less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language’. Comments are included below:

- “use money saved from school closure to purchase resources for other schools”
- “Move all teachers and pupils to one school and move the budgets”
- “the school could be used as a centre for Welsh learning”
- “To use Welsh everyday”

### **Treating Everybody Fairly**

We asked questions about how fair people thought the proposal was. Not all respondents chose to answer the ‘treating everybody fairly’ section in the survey.

<b>Do you think this proposal could disadvantage or make things unfair for any groups of people or individuals?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	3
No	6
Not sure/don't know	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

4 respondents chose to answer the free text question 'If you think this proposal could disadvantage or make things unfair for any groups of people or individuals, which groups or individuals do you think may be disadvantaged and why?' Comments are included below:

- "Groups that are non- Communal, as non drivers. Transport needs and funds through LA must be met!"
- "Without a village school parents and carers have to travel to school and the village loses its young person hub. The school use the church frequently and the community centre for the Christmas performances."
- "The next generation in the village to have children will have to send them further away. The village will lose its hub and heart. My children are second generation to have gone through the school and they will be denied a chance to send their own children. The chapel - canteen is grade 2 listed and we risk losing that and the unlisted school if sold for housing."
- "Current pupils with ALN and social, and emotional needs in particular"

4 respondents chose to answer the free text question 'Do you think there is any potential in the way we deliver this proposal to make things fairer for the groups or individuals you have identified?' Comments are included below:

- "Bring closure forward"
- "if you include any means of needs for said groups are met."
- "Use the site as a forest school/ outdoor learning centre maybe for flexi schooling etc rather than close it all together."
- "Because of the way pentre is any child would be welcomed with open arms"

### **Carbon**

We asked people whether they thought the proposal would have any long lasting positive or negative impacts on reducing carbon in our environment. Not all respondents chose to answer the carbon section in the survey.

<b>Do you think this proposal will have any long lasting positive or negative impacts on reducing carbon in our environment?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Long lasting positive impact	3
Long lasting negative impact	3
Both long lasting positive and negative impacts	0
No impact	3
Don't know/not sure	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

4 respondents chose to answer the free text question 'If you have identified any long lasting negative impacts, please describe these below, along with any ideas to reduce them'. The following comments were received:

- "Opportunity to increase take up of bus to Garth and Pentre"
- "It is incredibly likely that the Council will sell the site of Froncysyllte CP for redevelopment (as has been done previously with other schools that have been closed), this will have a long lasting negative impact because the additional traffic (which would be higher than school users) would increase the carbon footprint, as would the presence of more buildings"
- "increased travel time/distance to take children to alternative site"
- "I think that the building could be used for flats/?accommodation, causing more rather than less pressure on local roads and provision for parking . This has already been greatly impacted in a negative way by the development of the aqueduct. Provision could be made at the existing community centre for aqueduct visitors,( a museum and parking ) and community events including Welsh teaching moved to the school: maybe then the school could be kept open. Is this what you are referring to on page 9 of the consultation document under the heading of "Alternatives to Closure " and why was it considered "not viable " please ? More details of what you were considering under this heading would be helpful please"

## **Equality Monitoring Data-'About You'**

We asked a number of equality monitoring questions in the survey under the heading 'About You'. Not all respondents chose to answer the 'about you' section of the survey. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:

- Age
- Sex
- Gender Reassignment

- Race-including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality
- Disability
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion or Belief-including lack of belief
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

In addition, the socio-economic duty requires Local Authorities in Wales when taking strategic decisions, to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

### Age

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

What is your age?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Under 11	0
11-15 years	0
16-24 years	0
25-34 years	0
35-44 years	4
45-54 years	2
55-64 years	3
65-74 years	0
75 and above	0
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

## Sex

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>What is your gender?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Male	2
Female	8
Other	0
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Gender Reassignment

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Has your gender identity changed from that assigned at birth?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	1
No	9
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Race-National Identity

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

How would you describe your national identity?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Welsh	7
English	1
Scottish	0
Northern Irish	0
British	1
Other	1
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Disability

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Yes, limited a lot	1
Yes, limited a little	1
No	8
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Carer

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Do you look after, or give help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or other because of long-term physical or mental ill health/disability or problems related to old age</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	2
No	7
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

## Language

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>What is your preferred language?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
English	9
Welsh	1
Other	0
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Race-Ethnicity

10 respondents chose to answer this question

<b>What is your ethnic group?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
White (Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British)	8
Irish	0
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0
Roma	0
Any other White background	1
Asian-Indian	0
Asian-Pakistani	0
Asian-Bangladeshi	0
Asian-Chinese	0
Asian-any other Asian background	0
Black-Caribbean	0
Black-African	0
Black-any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background	0
Mixed-White and Black Caribbean	0
Mixed-White and Black African	0
Mixed-White and Asian	0
Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background	0
Arab	0
Any other ethnicity	0
Prefer not to say	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

### Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

What is your religion or belief?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
No religion	3
Christian (all denominations)	5
Muslim	0
Buddhist	0
Hindu	0
Jewish	0
Sikh	0
Atheist	1
Other	0
Prefer not to say	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

### Marriage and Civil Partnership

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

Are you married or in a civil partnership?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Yes	5
No	3
I am a young person aged under 18	0
I am a widow/widower	0
Prefer not to say	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

## Pregnancy and Maternity

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant, or taken maternity leave in the last year?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	0
No	9
Prefer not to say	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

## Sexual Orientation

10 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Which of the following best describes how you think of yourself?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Heterosexual or straight	9
Gay man	0
Gay woman/Lesbian	0
Bisexual	0
Other	0
Prefer not to say	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

### Socio-Economic Deprivation-Means Tested Benefits

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Do you or your household receive any means tested benefits (For example: Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Job Seekers Allowance, Tax Credits, Carers Allowance, Council Tax Reduction Scheme)?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	5
No	3
Prefer not to say	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

### Socio-Economic Deprivation-Disability Benefits

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

<b>Do you or anyone living in your household receive disability benefits? (for example: Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Constant Attendance Allowance, War Pension Mobility Supplement)</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	2
No	6
Prefer not to say	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

## Electoral Ward

9 respondents chose to answer this question.

Electoral Ward	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Acrefair North	1
Acton and Maesydre	0
Bangor-is-y-Coed	0
Borras Park	0
Bronington and Hanmer	0
Brymbo	0
Bryn Cefn	0
Brynffynnon	0
Cartrefle	0
Cefn East	1
Cefn West	0
Ceiriog Valley	0
Chirk North	3
Chirk South	0
Coedpoeth	0
Dyffryn Ceiriog	0
Erddig	0
Esclusham	0
Garden Village	0
Gresford East/West	0
Grosvenor	0
Gwenfro	0
Gwersyllt East	0
Gwersyllt North	0

Gwersyllt South	0
Gwersyllt West	0
Hermitage	0
Holt	0
Little Acton	0
Llangollen Rural	2
Llay	0
Marchwiell	0
Marford and Hoseley	0
Minera	0
New Broughton	0
Offa	0
Overton and Maelor South	0
Pant and Johnstown	0
Pen-y-cae	0
Pen-y-cae and Ruabon South	0
Ponciau	0
Queensway	0
Rhos	0
Rhosnesni	0
Rossett	0
Ruabon	0
Smithfield	0
Stansty	0
Whitegate	0
Wynnstay	0
I do not live in Wrexham	0
Prefer not to say	2

<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
--------------	----------

## Survey Quality Monitoring Questions

At the end of the survey, we asked three questions about people's experiences of completing the survey. Not all people chose to answer the survey quality monitoring questions.

In response to the question 'How easy did you find this survey to complete?' 12 respondents chose to answer.

<b>How easy did you find this survey to complete?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Very easy	5
Quite easy	7
Quite difficult	0
Very difficult	0
Don't know/Not sure	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

In response to the question 'In your view did we ask the right questions about the subject of this survey?' 14 respondents chose to answer.

<b>In your view did we ask the right questions about the subject of this survey?</b>	<b>Number of Respondents (who answered this question)</b>
Yes	3
No	6
Not sure	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

9 respondents chose to answer the free text question ‘If you answered ‘No’ or ‘Not Sure’ for the last question, are there any other questions you think we should have asked?’ Comments are included below:

- “Why wasn’t this decision taken before the start of the school year?”
- “There needs to be more focus on the well being & impact of this proposal on the community, parents, & children, rather than making it about the Council.”
- “Impact on the child of the suggested option”
- “I think there should be more questions about the future of the building and impact on the community”
- “Have the nearest Primary school settings be included in this proposal ?”
- “Will nearest primary school setting get spaces or funding for allocating pupils places?”
- “Have Parents/Guardians been included in the process of this proposal?”
- “What other options I can think of instead of just one option I am presented with!”
- “There is no opportunity to make other suggested options”
- “There were no questions relating to the pupils and the effect it will have on them. That was peculiar”
- “How this will affect children and parents. Children are the most important thing in all this and children with extra needs are so much better in a small school, it’s not all about money!”

In response to the question ‘When we asked a question was it clear what we were asking?’ 14 respondents chose to answer.

When we asked a question was it clear what we were asking?	Number of Respondents (who answered this question)
Yes	10
No	1
Not sure	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

1 respondent chose to answer the free text question ‘If you answered ‘No’ or ‘Not Sure’ for the last question, please could you provide some more information about which questions were not clear and why?’ Comments are included below:

- “Some of the questions seem a bit pointless”

3 respondents chose to answer the free text question ‘Do you have any other suggestions as to how we could improve future surveys?’ Comments are included below:

- “no it is fine”
- “I found it difficult to find”
- “Make it more personal it's about people's lives”

## **Impact Assessments**

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

The Integrated Impact Assessment was available to view/download from the [Consultation: Dee Valley Federation of Schools](#) webpage on the Council’s website. Hard copies were made available on request.

### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

The Welsh Language Impact Assessment was available to view/download from the [Consultation: Dee Valley Federation of Schools](#) webpage on the Council’s website. Hard copies were made available on request.

### **Community Impact Assessment**

The Community Impact Assessment was available to view/download from the [Consultation: Dee Valley Federation of Schools](#) webpage on the Council’s website. Hard copies were made available on request.

### **Transport Impact Assessment**

The Transport Impact Assessment was available to view/download from the [Consultation: Dee Valley Federation of Schools](#) webpage on the Council’s website. Hard copies were made available on request.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Frequently asked questions were captured during the public consultation. A designated ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ section with responses could be found on the council’s involvement platform Your Voice and was uploaded to the [Consultation: Dee Valley Federation of Schools](#) webpage on the Council’s website.

## **Overall Summary of Findings**

### **In support of the proposal**

- 8 out of 14 responses to the adult survey were in support of the proposal.
- 15 out of 25 responses to the children and young people survey were in support of the proposal.
- 3 out of 15 responses from the School Councils were in support of the proposal.
- 6 out of 7 letters and emails were in support of the proposal.

### **Not in support of the proposal**

- 5 out of 14 responses to the adult survey did not support the proposal.
- 4 out of 25 responses to the children and young people survey did not support the proposal.
- 4 out of 15 responses from the School Councils were in support of the proposal.
- 1 out of 7 letters and emails were in support of the proposal.

### **Unsure**

- 1 out of 14 responses to the adult survey said they didn't know how they felt about the proposal.
- 6 out of 25 responses to the children and young people survey said they didn't know how they felt about the proposal.
- 8 out of 15 responses from the School Councils were in support of the proposal.
- 0 out of 7 letters and emails did not state whether they were in support of the proposal or not.

## **Conclusion and Local Authority Response**

Upon review of the consultation responses, the Local Authority believes the potential benefits of the preferred option (Option 2) are wide-reaching and the few potential disadvantages are outweighed by benefits. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure there are suitable and sufficient school places available, whilst providing efficient and effective education services for pupils. This includes addressing sufficiency issues where relevant, including low demand for pupil places, current numbers on roll and projected intake.

If a decision is taken not to proceed with the current proposal and the status-quo is maintained, it is likely that the Local Authority will be unable to address the issue of low pupil numbers at Froncysyllte CP and comply with its duty to monitor the demand for school places, ensuring viability of the school estate.

## **Executive Board Decision**

Wrexham County Borough Council Executive Board will meet on 20 January 2026 to discuss the consultation in relation to the Dee Valley Federation of Schools. The Executive Board will be asked for approval to continue to the Statutory Notice stage in establishing the new specialist provision. This consists of a 28-day formal Objection Period whereby any objections to the proposal must be made in writing. Following this, Officers will return to the Executive Board to determine the final decision in June 2026.