



## Consultation on the Dee Valley Federation of Schools

### Statutory Consultation Document

Garth CP Garth Road Garth Trevor LL20 7UY	Froncysyllte CP Woodland Road Llangollen LL20 7SU	Pentre Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School Pentre Village, Chirk, LL14 5AW
---	--	---

This document is available in languages other than Welsh or English upon request. It is also available in accessible formats such as large print, Braille, BSL DVD and audio-CD upon request. To make a request for this document in another format or language, please email [DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk) or write to Dee Valley Consultation, Education, Crown Buildings, 31 Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

## Contents

Consultation on the Dee Valley Federation of Schools .....	1
Contents.....	2
Part A-Why is change being considered? .....	4
Foreword from Chief Officer Education & Early Intervention .....	4
The Proposal .....	5
Introduction .....	5
Why is change needed? .....	5
Strategic Context.....	5
Details of the Schools in this Proposal.....	5
What would this proposal mean?.....	8
Options Considered .....	9
Preferred Option.....	9
Part B-The Proposal-Preferred Option.....	10
Rationale .....	10
Low Pupil Numbers .....	10
Falling Birth Rates and Population Rates .....	10
Combined Age Classes .....	10
Learning Opportunities and Peer Interaction .....	10
High Budget per Pupil .....	10
Underutilised Buildings .....	10
Environmental Impacts .....	10
Part C-Impact of the Proposal-Preferred Option.....	10
What are the potential benefits of the preferred option? .....	10
What are the potential disadvantages of the preferred option? .....	11
Summary of the Benefits and Disadvantages .....	11
Critical Success Factors .....	11
Risks .....	12
Resourcing of Education/Financial Implications.....	12
Governing Body Implications .....	15
Staffing Implications .....	15
Pupil and Parent Implications .....	16
Transport Implications .....	16
Sustainability.....	16
Environmental Impacts .....	16

Quality of Accommodation .....	16
Supporting the Community.....	16
Impact on Other Schools/School Places .....	17
Quality and Standards in Education-Overview .....	17
Froncysyllte Community Primary School .....	18
Garth Community Primary School .....	18
Pentre Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School.....	18
Impact of the Proposal on the Quality and Standard of Education .....	18
Impact Assessments.....	19
Integrated Impact Assessment .....	19
Welsh Language Impact Assessment .....	19
Community Impact Assessment .....	20
Transport Impact Assessment.....	20
The Consultation Process.....	20
Who will be consulted?.....	20
Timetable of Key Dates .....	21
The Consultation Period.....	22
Considering Your Views .....	22
Consultation Meetings.....	22
Consultation with Pupils .....	22
Consultation Report.....	23
Publication of Statutory Notices .....	23
Statutory Objection Period .....	23
Determination of Proposal.....	24
Decision Notification.....	24
Appendix A-Surrounding Schools Data .....	25
Pentre CIW VC Primary School.....	26
Ysgol Acrefair .....	27
Ysgol Min Y Ddol .....	28
Ysgol Cefn Mawr .....	29
Garth CP .....	30

## **Part A-Why is change being considered?**

### **Foreword from Chief Officer Education & Early Intervention**

Wrexham County Borough Council has a statutory responsibility to promote high quality, effective education provision. Part of this responsibility is to keep the number and type of school places under review to ensure there are suitable and sufficient school places available and enhance opportunities for learning and deliver education efficiently.

We put learners at the heart of all we do and we invite ideas from the community as we develop specific proposals. By listening to the views of those affected by any changes, we can make better decisions and can work together to deliver the change needed to ensure that children and young people in Wrexham achieve the best they can.

Our vision:

*We want all learners to be and become the best that they can, to have high aspirations, the confidence, opportunities and qualifications to achieve their potential.*

In practical terms, this means we need to ensure that education provision reflects changing patterns of population, and that our schools are based in the right location with accommodation and facilities fit to serve the needs of learners. When considering how many school places are needed, consideration is given to the number of pupil places available, increasing and decreasing trends in admission numbers and the projected demand for pupil places in a school.

Where there is a high number of surplus school places, resources are being utilised in such a way that could be better used to improve the quality of education for all learners. A high number of surplus places makes planning and managing the school difficult, creating issues in managing infant class sizes, and potentially leaving parts of the school unused which is not cost-effective.

The proposal to consult on the Dee Valley Federation of schools has not been taken lightly, however the decrease in pupil numbers at Froncysyllte Community Primary school is impacting on the school's educational and financial sustainability and this needs to be addressed.

Consultation will follow guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve key stakeholders as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018. The information contained in this document is intended to clarify proposals for the school concerned and support the consultation process.

**Karen Evans**

**Chief Officer, Education & Early Intervention**

# The Proposal

## Introduction

Wrexham County Borough Council are holding a formal consultation on the following proposal:

### **To consult on the Dee Valley Federation of schools.**

Following consultation on the proposed change, the Council will consider whether the proposal should be implemented.

This is your opportunity to ask questions and make comments that will be considered by the Council's Executive Board, who will decide how to proceed.

The formal consultation period will begin on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025** and will end on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**.

### **Why is change needed?**

Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data 2025 shows that there is currently 22.1% surplus capacity in Wrexham primary schools and 13.0% surplus capacity in Wrexham secondary schools. With pupil numbers across Wrexham projected to decrease overall in the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county borough will continue to increase.

### **Strategic Context**

The Council 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, which could mean high demand for pupil places, or low demand for pupil places.

In response to demographic changes occurring at a local and national level (such as decreasing birth rates and population rates), our focus is on potential repurposing of the education estate to meet changing demands and drivers for school reorganisation. In addition to demographic drivers, other key factors for consideration are the appropriateness and location of a school site, building maintenance costs and sustainability.

Pupil numbers have decreased overall in Wrexham schools over the past five years and are expected to continue decreasing. As a result, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

During the period up to 2028, Wrexham's population is expected to decrease by 1.5 per cent. Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Wrexham increased by just 0.2%, from just over 134,800 in 2011 to around 135,100 in 2021. Wrexham's population increased by a smaller percentage than the overall population of Wales.

### **Details of the Schools in this Proposal**

The Dee Valley Federation of schools was established in January 2014. It brought together Pentre Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Froncysyllte Community Primary School and Garth Community Primary School under one governing body and one Headteacher.

**Froncysyllte CP** is currently registered as an English-medium community primary school. It is located on Woodlands Road, Froncysyllte in the Llangollen Rural ward. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 12 pupils, with an age range of 3-11 years.

<b>Name of the School</b>	Froncysyllte CP
<b>Location of the School</b>	Woodland Road, Froncysyllte, LL20 7SU
<b>Age Range</b>	3-11
<b>School Category</b>	Community Primary
<b>Language Medium</b>	English Medium
<b>Current Capacity</b>	84
<b>Surplus Places (January 2025)</b>	73
<b>Building Condition Category</b>	B

#### **Total number of pupils on roll in last 5 years Froncysyllte CP (PLASC)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2020/21	26	58	69.05%
2021/22	21	63	75.00%
2022/23	24	60	71.43%
2023/24	19	65	77.38%
2024/25	11	73	86.90%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

#### **Pupil Projections Froncysyllte CP**

Pupil projections are based on information held by Management Information Systems (MIS) statistical data at the time of the writing of this report. These numbers are NOT actual pupil numbers that will be on roll during the specified academic years. Actual numbers on roll will be updated each year following January pupil level annual school census (PLASC) data collection.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2025/26	6	78	92.86%
2026/27	5	79	94.05%
2027/28	1	83	98.81%
2028/29	1	83	98.81%
2029/30	0	84	100.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

**Garth CP** is currently registered as an English-medium community primary school. It is located on Garth Road, Garth, Trevor, LL20 7UY in the Llangollen Rural ward. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 15 pupils, with an age range of 3-11 years.

<b>Name of the School</b>	Garth CP
<b>Location of the School</b>	Garth Road, Garth, Trevor, LL20 7UY
<b>Age Range</b>	3-11
<b>School Category</b>	Community Primary
<b>Language Medium</b>	English Medium
<b>Current Capacity</b>	105
<b>Surplus Places (January 2025)</b>	60
<b>Building Condition Category</b>	B

#### **Total number of pupils on roll in last 5 years Garth CP (PLASC Data)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2020/21	46	59	56.19%
2021/22	55	50	47.62%
2022/23	51	54	51.43%
2023/24	43	62	59.05%
2024/25	45	60	57.14%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

#### **Pupil Projections-Garth CP**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2025/26	49	56	53.33%
2026/27	51	54	51.43%
2027/28	46	59	56.19%
2028/29	45	60	57.14%
2029/30	42	63	60.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

**Pentre CIW VC Primary School** is currently registered as an English-medium voluntary controlled primary school. It is located in Pentre Village, Chirk, LL14 5AW in the Chirk North ward. The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 10 pupils, with an age range of 3-11 years.

<b>Name of School</b>	Pentre CIW VC Primary School
<b>Location of the School</b>	Pentre Village, Chirk, LL14 5AW
<b>Age Range</b>	3-11
<b>School Category</b>	Voluntary Controlled
<b>Language Medium</b>	English Medium
<b>Current Capacity</b>	70
<b>Surplus Places (January 2025)</b>	28
<b>Building Condition Category</b>	B

#### **Total number of pupils on roll in last 5 years Pentre CIW VC Primary School (PLASC Data)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2020/21	54	16	22.86%
2021/22	61	9	12.86%
2022/23	51	19	27.14%
2023/24	44	26	37.14%
2024/25	42	28	40.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

#### **Pupil Projections-Pentre CIW VC Primary School**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2025/26	39	31	44.29%
2026/27	33	37	52.86%
2027/28	26	44	62.86%
2028/29	26	44	62.86%
2029/30	26	44	62.86%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

### **What would this proposal mean?**

Factors that have been considered by the Council in deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- To ensure future sustainability of schools in the Dee Valley Federation.

- To enable pupils to attend alternative schools which would be better equipped to meet the new Curriculum for Wales.
- To enable pupils to attend alternative schools which would provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities.
- To enable pupils to attend a school with a larger cohort, so that pupils can be taught in classes of a similar age group providing additional opportunities for peer support.
- To enable pupils to attend schools with better quality accommodation.
- To ensure efficiency of resource planning and management.
- To reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools.
- To address the issue of low pupil numbers on roll and projected intake.
- To ensure that the Council complies with its duty to monitor the demand for school places and ensure viability of the school estate.
- To realise a financial saving accrued to the Dee Valley Federation budget.

## Options Considered

- **Option 1**-Maintain the Status Quo. This option would mean all 3 schools in the Dee Valley Federation would continue to operate as they do now.
- **Option 2**-Close Froncysyllte Community Primary School. This option would mean that Froncysyllte CP would close and current pupils would be offered a place at an alternative school.
- **Option 3**-Close all 3 schools in the Dee Valley Federation to create a single, amalgamated school on one site. This option would include the immediate closure of Froncysyllte in advance of the wider restructure. Option 3 has been discounted due to an alternative suitable site not being available. Option 3 will therefore not be consulted on.

## Preferred Option

**The preferred option is Option 2.**

The level of surplus places at Froncysyllte CP is projected to continue. There is no data available to suggest that the number of pupils applying for a place at the school would exceed 84 in future years.

By bringing this proposal forward, the Council intends to address the decreasing demand for school places at Froncysyllte CP.

### **Alternatives to closure that have been considered:**

The Local Authority has considered whether it would be feasible and economical to co-locate local services in Froncysyllte CP to offset the costs of maintaining the school. However, this is not viable due to the size and appropriateness of the school site.

An additional alternative to closure is also being put forward as an option for consideration (Option 1-Maintain Status Quo). However, maintaining the status quo is not deemed to be in the best interests of the Federation in the long-term.

**Option 1** has been discounted due to:

- Decreasing numbers of pupils applying for places at the school over a sustained period.
- Forecasts which suggest this trend will continue.
- The decrease in pupil numbers has impacted on the school's educational and financial sustainability and this needs to be addressed.

## **Part B-The Proposal-Preferred Option**

### **Rationale**

The main challenges for the Council and the Federation are:

#### **Low Pupil Numbers**

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers at Froncysyllte CP are significantly lower than this, and are projected to remain so for the foreseeable future. Low pupil numbers at the school have resulted in a high number of surplus places at the school. Projections show that there will be no pupils attending Froncysyllte CP within the next 5 years, this could be sooner should parents choose to transfer their children earlier.

#### **Falling Birth Rates and Population Rates**

A national and local decline in birth rates and population rates is impacting on the number of pupils requiring school places.

#### **Combined Age Classes**

Small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole Key Stage classes. When pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged in their learning environment.

#### **Learning Opportunities and Peer Interaction**

Ensuring learners have access to classes of a similar age group provides additional opportunities for peer support and enhanced teaching and learning experiences.

#### **High Budget per Pupil**

Inefficient allocation of pupil funds. Keeping schools open with high surplus places can mean spending more per pupil than necessary.

#### **Underutilised Buildings**

Buildings that have unused spaces (e.g. empty classrooms) are expensive to run and are not cost-effective. The condition of underused buildings can deteriorate, increasing maintenance costs.

#### **Environmental Impacts**

There can be environmental impacts in terms of inefficient energy use, waste production and unsustainable land use.

## **Part C-Impact of the Proposal-Preferred Option**

### **What are the potential benefits of the preferred option?**

The proposed changes would:

- Reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in Wrexham's primary schools.

- Provide an appropriate solution to meet local demand for school places in the areas where the schools are located.
- Limit the impact on all schools, both locally and across the county.
- Support the sustainable growth of Welsh-medium education in line with the aspirations of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Cymraeg 2050.
- Enable pupils to attend alternative schools which would be better equipped to meet the new Curriculum for Wales.
- Enable pupils to attend alternative schools which would provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Enable pupils to attend a school with a larger cohort, so that pupils can be taught in class of a similar age group.
- Enable pupils to access additional opportunities for peer support.
- Provide curriculum consistency, familiarity of leadership approaches and continuity of care for local pupils.
- Improve standards of education to the benefit of all pupils in the area.

### **What are the potential disadvantages of the preferred option?**

- Lower pupil numbers could lead to job insecurity for teachers and staff.
- Parents/carers may not be able to access their school of choice.
- There could be additional travel for pupils for whom Froncysyllte CP is currently the closest school.
- There could be additional travel costs for parents.
- Pupils currently attending Froncysyllte CP would have to transfer to an alternative school.
- Could be unsettling for the community.

### **Summary of the Benefits and Disadvantages**

In light of the above benefits and disadvantages, it is the view of the Local Authority that the longer term benefits of the proposal outlined above outweigh any disadvantages. Any potential risks will be carefully managed and mitigated wherever possible.

### **Critical Success Factors**

The proposal meets the following Critical Success Factors (CFS) in Wrexham's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme:

**CSF 1**-In line with our School Organisation Framework, projects / proposals support the development of efficient and effective use of the school estate across the county.

**CSF 2**-Projects/proposals meet the challenges associated with the demography of Wrexham.

**CSF 3**-Projects/proposals support the increase in demand for Welsh medium and widen access opportunities by ensuring an improved geographical distribution.

**CSF 4**-Projects/proposals support the increase in demand for faith provision and ensure sufficiency of places through a better geographic distribution of places.

**CSF 5**-Projects/proposals support our drive to improve performance at all key stages.

**CSF 6**-Projects/proposals harness the use of new ICT technologies to improve the infrastructure across the school estate. Technology should be used in order to promote collaboration between schools and enhance pupil access to learning, both at school and through virtual learning environments.

**CSF 7**-Projects/proposals address the condition of our school estate. Backlog maintenance will be significantly reduced and the number of buildings graded as Condition C will be reduced by 25% during Band B.

**CSF 8**-Projects/proposals should allow flexibility for future development in areas where demand is forecast to continue to rise.

**CSF 9**-Opportunities to maximise the use of the current estate will be realised. Where it is efficient to do so, alternative uses for surplus places which support our stated aims for the programme will be found.

**CSF 10**-Project bids are affordable for the Council in the context of match funding.

**CSF 11**-Projects/proposals will give consideration to community focussed facilities and parental desire for wrap around care alongside the 30 hour childcare offer.

**CSF 12**-Projects/proposals contribute to the Council's carbon reduction target to reduce our carbon emissions by 70% by 2020 against the 2005/2006 baseline.

## **Risks**

Where there is a consistent reduction in the number of pupils on roll over a sustained period, there is a risk that if the Council does not take action it may increase the likelihood of the school becoming unviable, particularly in light of projected pupil intake. All possible risks will be monitored as part of Wrexham County Council's School Risk Management Strategy. 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.

## **Resourcing of Education/Financial Implications**

Wrexham Schools are allocated their funding annually through an approved resource allocation formula. The majority of the formula relates to the number of pupils on roll at each school. In addition to the "pupil driven" portion of the formula, the formula also includes additional allocations related to base allocations, buildings factors such as floor area and also small schools protection factors.

**The unit (per pupil) costs for each of the sites are:**

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>AWPU</b>	<b>Total Fixed Costs</b>	<b>Per Unit</b>
Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£3,521	£128,603	£5,568
Froncysyllte CP	£3,937	£160,827	£17,217
Garth CP	£3,497	£115,040	£5,005

**The average cost for a Wrexham Primary School in 2025-2026 is:**

<b>AWPU</b>	£4,176
<b>Per Unit (including fixed costs)</b>	£5,315

**The revenue delegated budgets for the three sites in the Federation in 2025-2026 are:**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£283,523
Froncysyllte CP	£204,130
Garth CP	£289,883
<b>Total Delegated Budget</b>	<b>£777,536</b>

**Current projected deficit for 2025-2026 (current arrangements)**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£64,614 (deficit balance)
Froncysyllte CP	£38,664 (surplus balance)
Garth CP	£36,407 (deficit balance)
<b>Current Federation Balance</b>	<b>£62,357 (deficit)</b>

**Option 1-Status Quo-all three schools remain as they are currently**

Deficit budget continues.

**Option 2-Closure of Froncysyllte County Primary School in September 2026**

This option would result in a reduction in the number of teachers and teaching assistants being required.

For the 2026-27 financial year, this would generate a saving of £57,269, with an additional potential saving of £2,667 if staff are redeployed during the notice period to cover supply in Garth and Pentre. In a full financial year, the saving would equate to £204,130.

The closure of Froncysyllte would have financial implications for Garth and Pentre, as they would need to cover the full cost of a head teacher, which is currently shared (total additional cost £13,524). However, this impact could be mitigated by the additional budget allocated due to incoming pupils transferring to these schools (total additional budget £20,880 for 5 pupils).

**Option 1: Status Quo-all three schools remain as they are currently**

If this option was adopted the three sites would be allocated their delegated budget on the same formula basis as current.

**The delegated budgets for each of the sites for 2025-26 are:**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£283,523
Froncysyllte CP	£204,130
Garth CP	£289,883

**These budgets include an element of small schools protection:**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£24,888
Froncysyllte CP	£76,218
Garth CP	£15,555

**Schools Net Planned Expenditure and income for 2025-26\*:**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£65,034 overspent
Froncysyllte CP	£1,053 underspent
Garth CP	£46,906 overspent

*\*These figures exclude any carried forward balances from 2024-25.*

**The balances for 2024-25 total £48,730 (surplus)**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£420 surplus
Froncysyllte CP	£37,811 surplus
Garth CP	£10,499 surplus

**The projected balances for 2025-26 would therefore total £62,157 (deficit)**

Pentre CIW VC Primary School	£64,614 deficit
Froncysyllte CP	£38,864 surplus
Garth CP	£36,407 deficit

**Option 2: Closure of Froncysyllte CP in September 2026**

Pupil numbers at Froncysyllte CP are expected to decline further with an estimate of 5 pupils remaining in September 2025.

**Closure of Froncysyllte CP would result in a budget saving for 2026/27**

(£204,130)	ISB Budget Allocation	2026-2027
£149,762	Staff costs*	April to December 2026
£926	Other employee costs	April to August 2026
£6,863	Premises	April to August 2026
£21	Transport	April to August 2026
£4,354	Supplies	April to August 2026
£5,792	Agency	April to August 2026

£1,061	HWB Payment	April to August 2026
(£22,278)	Grants	
(£57,629)	Net income/expenditure-underspend	2026-2027

\* Staff cost April to December 2026 (12 week notice required)

### Additional Potential Savings

The supply cost savings at Garth CP and Pentre CIW VC Primary School if staff were redeployed would be £2,667.

From September to December 2026 (£8,000pa budget x 4/12ths)

### Closure of Froncysyllte CP would result in a full year budget saving for 2027/28:

<b>ISB Budget Saving</b> This would increase the balance of the ISB contingency and benefit Wrexham schools.	£204,130
<b>Additional Costs</b> Headteacher costs currently absorbed by Froncysyllte would in future need to be met by Pentre and Garth.  <b>Pentre CIW VC Primary School-£6,767</b> <b>Garth CP-£6,767</b>	£13,534
<b>Additional Income</b> Additional ISB Budget shares should the pupils transfer to Pentre or Garth (5 pupils x £4,176)	£20,880

*Note: If staff are not redeployed there may be leaving costs that have not been captured in this analysis*

Job Roles	FTE	2026/27
Total	3.02	£166,181

### Governing Body Implications

If one of the schools leaves the Federation, a new governing body would need to be established. Notice would need to be given, and stakeholders informed. The Local Authority would need to issue a new Instrument of Government, detailing the new Federation and its composition. This information would also need to be submitted to Welsh Government.

### Staffing Implications

This proposal will have an impact on the school staffing structure. A separate staff consultation process will be undertaken with employees and trade union

representatives in relation to any resulting staff restructures. Staff views will be considered as part of the process.

### **Pupil and Parent Implications**

The Council recognises that a consultation which proposes a school closure will undoubtedly be unsettling for pupils and their families. There are sufficient places in the other two schools in the Federation which pupils could transfer to. This would ensure curriculum consistency, familiarity with leadership approaches and continuity of pastoral care. Transition arrangements would be carefully managed to ensure that mitigations were in place for any possible disruption (such as visits / joint activities at the new school before moving) so that pupils can more readily adapt to new routines or possible changes in teachers and peer groups. The admission arrangements for the Dee Valley Federation of Schools would remain unchanged.

### **Transport Implications**

Any transport and parking issues in the immediate area of the school should be alleviated, realising a positive impact. The proposal is therefore deemed feasible. Please refer to the Transport Impact Assessment for further details ([Dee Valley Federation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#))

### **Sustainability**

This proposal would impact on several elements in relation to sustainability, for example, environmental sustainability, educational sustainability and financial sustainability. Concentrating resources in fewer buildings means a higher proportion of the budget can be spent on teaching and learning rather than infrastructure. Concentrated investment in the remaining schools would ensure increased financial viability ability to withstand potential fluctuations in pupil numbers. In addition, there would be reduced overhead costs (building maintenance, utilities, insurance), more efficient deployment of teachers and support staff, a broader subject offer in the remaining schools and better use of equipment and resources.

### **Environmental Impacts**

This proposal would provide benefits to the environment in terms of producing a lower carbon footprint from reduced heating, lighting and maintenance. Fewer buildings in operation provides positive environmental impacts stemming from a reduction in and more efficient energy use, waste production and unsustainable land use.

### **Quality of Accommodation**

The quality of accommodation of all 3 schools has been assessed as school condition category “B”. School condition category “B” is defined by the Welsh Government as *“good condition, only minor deterioration and minor works required”*. Therefore, there are no shortcomings in the quality of accommodation offered at the alternative sites.

### **Supporting the Community**

As part of the consultation exercise, the Council will engage with the community to address concerns and regular communications will be provided. Face to face and virtual consultation sessions will be offered, providing the opportunity for members of the community to ask questions and find out further information about the consultation. This will aim to manage any uncertainty around the proposal and

associated decisions taken by the Council's Executive Board. Please refer to the Community Impact Assessment for further details.

### **Impact on Other Schools/School Places**

Appendix A illustrates the potential impact on surrounding schools, likely to be minimal. Other schools in the surrounding area (i.e. within a two mile walking distance of the schools) should not be adversely affected by the proposal as there are sufficient spaces in a number of the surrounding schools in the area.

## **Quality and Standards in Education-Overview**

The Council works in partnership with Estyn in order to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement for the children and young people of Wrexham.

Estyn is the office of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales. It is a crown body and was established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the Welsh Parliament but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects the quality and standards of provision in schools and training providers in Wales.

Wrexham County Borough Council's last monitoring visit by Estyn in July 2023 highlighted that:

- *Officers have established several helpful approaches that support leaders in schools and settings to secure improvement.*
- *The local authority now has a firmer grasp of the overall strengths and weaknesses of its schools, particularly regarding leadership and provision.*
- *Officers across the service are passionate and committed to delivering sustained improvements in provision and outcomes for pupils.*
- *Officers work well with schools for the development of whole-school approaches to emotional health and wellbeing to further strengthen arrangements for pupils.*
- *The local authority has developed a helpful, systematic approach to evaluating education services and planning for improvement. Plans to improve education services are clear at strategic and operational levels, and actions are targeted appropriately at areas in greatest need of improvement.*

When proposing changes to this type to school, Local Authorities are required to refer to the most recent Estyn report and any other evidence derived from performance monitoring.

Local Authorities must also demonstrate the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:

- Standards/Learning
- Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning
- Teaching and Learning Experiences
- Care, Support and Guidance
- Leadership and Management

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in a school so that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise the standards achieved by their pupils. Following inspection, Estyn issues a report and provides schools with recommendations for improvement.

### **Froncysyllte Community Primary School**

The last Estyn inspection to take place at Froncysyllte CP was in July 2022 in addition an interim visit took place February 2025.

For further information on the inspection and interim visit, please follow the links below to the Estyn website:

[Inspection Report Froncysyllte CP 2022](#)

[Interim Visit Letter Froncysyllte CP 2025](#)

### **Garth Community Primary School**

The last Estyn inspection to take place at Garth CP was in July 2022 in addition an interim visit took place February 2025.

For further information on the inspection and interim visit, please follow the links below to the Estyn website:

[Inspection Report Garth CP 2022](#)

[Interim Visit Letter Garth CP 2025](#)

### **Pentre Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

The last Estyn inspection to take place at Pentre CIW VC Primary School was in July 2022 in addition an interim visit took place February 2025.

For further information on the inspection and interim visit, please follow the links below to the Estyn website:

[Inspection Report Pentre CIW VC Primary School 2022](#)

[Interim Visit Letter Pentre CIW VC Primary School 2025](#)

Links have also been provided to the Estyn inspection reports of other schools within 2 miles walking distance from Froncysyllte CP:

#### **School Name**

#### **Link to Estyn Report**

Ysgol Acrefair

[Inspection Report Ysgol Acrefair 2018](#)

Ysgol Min Y Ddol

[Inspection Report Ysgol Min Y Ddol 2022](#)

Ysgol Cefn Mawr

[Inspection Report Ysgol Cefn Mawr 2024](#)

### **Impact of the Proposal on the Quality and Standard of Education**

Pupils would be able to attend an alternative school which could be one of the schools already in the Dee Valley Federation, ensuing curriculum consistency, familiarity with leadership approaches and continuity of pastoral care. Pupils would be transferred to a school with a larger cohort of pupils where they would be taught in classes with peers of a similar age group. This could improve collaborative

working, have a positive impact on wellbeing and attitudes to learning and increase opportunities for peer and social interaction within individual classes and across the whole school. Teaching and learning, care, support and guidance, breadth and balance of the curriculum and skills are likely to be enhanced as a result.

In relation to leadership and management, the proposal if implemented, would mean that the Headteacher would have responsibility for 2 schools in the Federation rather than 3. This would enable the Headteacher to have more capacity to focus on leadership and management at the remaining schools.

## **Impact Assessments**

The following initial impact assessments have been conducted as part of this proposal and the initial summaries below have been realised. Impact assessments are working documents and may be updated throughout the statutory process. Feedback from consultees during the consultation period will be used to inform the impact assessments.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

An initial Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been carried in relation to potential impacts on a number of aspects including Equality and the Wellbeing of Future Generations. The integrated impact assessment report presents information and assurance about how, when taking decisions, we have considered our duties and commitments in relation to legislation, priorities and strategies regarding the proposal. The initial assessment indicates there are mitigations in place to offset any potential adverse impact. Please refer to the Integrated Impact Assessment for further details.

### **Welsh Language Impact Assessment**

An initial Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) has been carried in relation to potential impacts on the Welsh language and Welsh medium education. This proposal links to the following WESP objectives:

Objective 1:

*More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.*

Objective 2:

*More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh.*

Objective 7:

*Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.*

Ongoing work in relation to our WESP objectives will minimise and mitigate any potential impacts from the proposal as we continue to promote and raise the profile of Welsh medium education in line with the aspirations of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and Cymraeg 2050. The Welsh Language Impact Assessment seeks to explore the extent to which the proposal supports the WESP targets and how the proposal could expand or reduce Welsh medium provision. An initial assessment has found that the proposal is this proposal will assist in

continuing to promote and raise the profile of Welsh medium education. We do not foresee any significant adverse impact as a result of this proposal to close an English medium primary school on the Welsh language and/or on Welsh medium education. There is one Welsh medium school within 2 miles of Froncysyllte CP (Ysgol Min y Ddol). Please refer to the Welsh Language Impact Assessment for further details ([Dee Valley Federation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#))

### **Community Impact Assessment**

The initial Community Impact Assessment (CIA) has indicated that there will be a potential mix of positive and negative effects on the community. The assessment highlights that schools in the Dee Valley Federation engage with the community in a number of ways. Overall, the initial Community Impact Assessment indicates that there are a number of neutral impacts on the community and a number of positive impacts on the community. Where there are potential negative impacts, mitigations are in place to reduce any adverse residual effects. Please refer to the Community Impact Assessment for further details ([Dee Valley Federation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#))

### **Transport Impact Assessment**

The initial Transport Impact Assessment (TIA) has indicated that there will be a potential mix of positive and negative effects on the community. Outcomes of the Transport Impact Assessment indicate that the proposal is feasible and there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects that have been identified in the initial assessment. Free transport is provided to all pupils with additional learning needs who require transport. This proposal will not impact on this arrangement.

Transportation for the pupils who currently attend Froncysyllte CP will not change and will remain in accordance with the Council's policy for home-to-school transport. It is recognised that the proposal may mean some children have to travel further and for longer if they do not live in the local area. However, the identified wider benefits for learners outweigh this. Overall, the initial Transport Impact Assessment indicates that there are a number of neutral impacts on travel arrangements and a number of positive impacts on the travel arrangements. Where there are potential negative impacts, mitigations are in place to reduce any adverse residual effects. Please refer to the Transport Impact Assessment for further details ([Dee Valley Federation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#))

## **The Consultation Process**

This consultation document sets out information which consultees will need to consider in order to take part fully in the consultation process. The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

### **Who will be consulted?**

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

*not be included.*

- 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 is open to all who wish to take part.

### Timetable of Key Dates

Please note that consultation timescales may be subject to change. In this event, any changes would be publicised.

Event	Dates
The Consultation Period During this time you can make your views known by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending planned consultation meetings by appointment (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• Completing the online survey</li> <li>• Writing to or emailing the council</li> </ul>	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025 to Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Consultation Report Presented to Executive Board	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Statutory Notice Published and Formal Objection Period Begins	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

Formal Objection Period Ends	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Executive Board Determines Final Decision on the Proposal	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Decision Notification Presented to Consultees	July 2026
Implementation of the Proposal	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026

### **The Consultation Period**

The formal consultation period will begin on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025** and will end on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025**.

### **Considering Your Views**

There are several ways in which you can communicate your views with us including:

- Complete the online survey by visiting: [Dee Valley Federation](#)
- Emailing your views to: [DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can submit your views in writing to: Dee Valley Consultation, Education, Crown Buildings, 31, Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

Due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on options, we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties either during or after the consultation period.

Responses will be analysed and key themes with examples of comments made will be made available to Elected Members for decision making purposes and they will also be responded to via publication of a post consultation report.

We kindly advise that any comments will not be treated as objections at this stage.

Please note that consultation timescales may be subject to change. In this event, any changes would be publicised.

### **Consultation Meetings**

You may also attend a consultation session (dates to be publicised once confirmed). At these sessions you will be able to talk to officers from the Council who will be available to answer your questions.

If you would like to attend a consultation session please contact:

[DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk)

### **Consultation with Pupils**

Wrexham Council is committed to providing opportunities for children to be able to inform decisions made that affect their lives and the services they access. 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 School Councils will be undertaken during the consultation period.

The Council will seek pupils' views in a number of ways, including via an online survey. The children and young people version has been written specifically to enable all children to better understand and engage with the formal consultation process. The information gathered will be included in the post-consultation document.

## Consultation Report

Within 13 weeks of the end of the consultation period (and in any event prior to publication of the proposals), the Council will publish a consultation report which will:

- Summarise the issues raised by consultees.
- Respond to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.
- Detail the overall merits of the proposal as highlighted by Estyn in their response.

The consultation report may also make recommendations to the Executive Board or the Governing Body about how to proceed (i.e. to publish the proposals as consulted on with any appropriate modifications, to abandon the proposals and retain the status quo or to make significant changes to the proposal and re-consult).

The Council will ensure that any views expressed by children and young people affected by the proposal are highlighted in the consultation report and that it is made accessible to them.

The consultation report will be published electronically on Wrexham County Borough Council's website and will undergo all accessibility checks in order to ensure that it is accessible to all consultees. Hard copies of the report will be made available on request.

## Publication of Statutory Notices

This is subject to the approval of the Post Consultation Report due to be presented to the Executive Board on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Please note that this date may be subject to change.

If the recommendation is accepted then a statutory notice will be issued and a 28 day objection period will begin on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Please note that this date may be subject to change. Statutory notices will be displayed at the entrance of the schools in the Dee Valley Federation.

## Statutory Objection Period

Statutory Notice Published and Formal Objection Period Begins	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Formal Objection Period Ends	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

If any objections are raised during the statutory objection period, a report will be published and will be available on the Council's website.

A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal. This will only be undertaken if a decision is made by the Council's Executive Board to proceed with a proposal, following consideration of all responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

We kindly ask that consultees only write in during the objection period if they have an official objection to the statutory notice. Any positive comments received during this period will have to be treated as objections even if they are in favour of the proposal.

Consultees can submit their objections to the statutory notice by emailing [DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:DeeValleyConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk) or by writing to Dee Valley Consultation, Education, Crown Buildings, 31, Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

### **Determination of Proposal**

The results of the Statutory Notice will be taken before the Executive Board in July 2026 and a decision as to whether the proposal should be implemented will be agreed. Please note that the above date may be subject to change.

### **Decision Notification**

Subject to the proposal being implemented, a decision notification will be made available to all consultees. This notification will also be published on the Council's website as soon as possible following the decision.

## Appendix A-Surrounding Schools Data

It is anticipated that by bringing forward the preferred option, other schools in the surrounding area (i.e. within a two mile walking distance of Froncysyllte CP) should not be adversely affected, as there are sufficient places in schools in the surrounding area.

<b>Primary School</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Language Medium</b>	<b>Building Condition Category</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Number on Roll (F/T)</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
Pentre CIW VC Primary School	1.400	English Medium	B	70	42	28
Ysgol Acrefair	1.513	English Medium	C	210	189	21
Ysgol Min Y Ddol	1.552	Welsh Medium	B	140	105	35
Ysgol Cefn Mawr	1.587	English Medium	B	210	179	31
Garth CP	1.856	English Medium	B	105	45	60

## Pentre CIW VC Primary School

<b>Capacity</b>	70	<b>PAN</b>	10	<b>Nursery Capacity</b>	10
-----------------	----	------------	----	-------------------------	----

### Total Number of Pupils on Roll (PLASC Data)

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2020/21	54	16	22.86%
2021/22	61	9	12.86%
2022/23	51	19	27.14%
2023/24	44	26	37.14%
2024/25	42	28	40.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

### Pupil Projections

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2025/26	39	31	44.29%
2026/27	33	37	52.86%
2027/28	26	44	62.86%
2028/29	26	44	62.86%
2029/30	26	44	62.86%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

## Ysgol Acrefair

<b>Capacity</b>	210	<b>PAN</b>	30	<b>Nursery Capacity</b>	30
-----------------	-----	------------	----	-------------------------	----

### Total Number of Pupils on Roll (PLASC Data)

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2020/21	199	11	5.24%
2021/22	194	16	7.62%
2022/23	191	19	9.05%
2023/24	186	24	11.43%
2024/25	189	21	10.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

### Pupil Projections

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2025/26	179	31	14.76%
2026/27	168	42	20.00%
2027/28	165	45	21.43%
2028/29	164	46	21.90%
2029/30	157	53	25.24%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

## Ysgol Min Y Ddol

<b>Capacity</b>	140	<b>PAN</b>	20	<b>Nursery Capacity</b>	20
-----------------	-----	------------	----	-------------------------	----

### Total Number of Pupils on Roll (PLASC Data)

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2020/21	94	46	32.86%
2021/22	101	39	27.86%
2022/23	103	37	26.43%
2023/24	100	40	28.57%
2024/25	105	35	25.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

### Pupil Projections

Year	Total F/T	Surplus Places	Percentage
2025/26	108	32	22.86%
2026/27	121	19	13.57%
2027/28	129	11	7.86%
2028/29	129	11	7.86%
2029/30	129	11	7.86%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

## Ysgol Cefn Mawr

<b>Capacity</b>	210	<b>PAN</b>	30	<b>Nursery Capacity</b>	30
-----------------	-----	------------	----	-------------------------	----

### Total Number of Pupils on Roll (PLASC Data)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2020/21	161	49	23.33%
2021/22	160	50	23.81%
2022/23	171	39	18.57%
2023/24	174	36	17.14%
2024/25	179	31	14.76%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

### Pupil Projections

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2025/26	162	48	22.86%
2026/27	152	58	27.62%
2027/28	149	61	29.05%
2028/29	147	63	30.00%
2029/30	145	65	30.95%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included*

## Garth CP

<b>Capacity</b>	105	<b>PAN</b>	15	<b>Nursery Capacity</b>	15
-----------------	-----	------------	----	-------------------------	----

### Total Number of Pupils on Roll (PLASC Data)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2020/21	46	59	56.19%
2021/22	55	50	47.62%
2022/23	51	54	51.43%
2023/24	43	62	59.05%
2024/25	45	60	57.14%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*

### Pupil Projections

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total F/T</b>	<b>Surplus Places</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2025/26	49	56	53.33%
2026/27	51	54	51.43%
2027/28	46	59	56.19%
2028/29	45	60	57.14%
2029/30	42	63	60.00%

*\*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in Resourced Provision or nursery pupils. Source-PLASC. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in Resourced Provision should not be included.*