

Wrexham County Borough Council

Proposal to establish a new special school for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Gwersyllt

Community Impact Assessment

March 2026 v2

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 SustainableCommunitiesForLearning@wrexham.gov.uk or write to Access and School Places Team, Education, 3rd Floor Lambpit Street, Wrexham, LL11 1AR.

This remains a working document and is subject to change throughout the consultation period.



Introduction

The School Organisation Code (2026) requires Local Authorities to carry out a Community Impact Assessment to give due consideration to the effects of proposals on the community.

This document assesses the impact that the proposal may have on the community and forms part of several impact assessments including: the Welsh Language and Transport. The Council has recently introduced an Integrated Impact Assessment which considers our duties and commitments in relation to:

- Our Council Priorities (2023-28)
- Our Climate and Ecological Emergency Declaration (2019)
- Our Involvement Strategy (2022-2027)
- Equality Act 2010 (including Public Sector Equality Duty, Socio-economic Duty and Procurement)
- Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 201-Policy Making Standards
- Armed Forces Act 2021
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Impact assessments are working documents which are continuously updated considering information from consultation with stakeholders and decisions taken by Elected Members.

The Proposal

Wrexham County Borough Council intends to carry out a formal consultation with stakeholders regarding a proposal to establish a new special school for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Gwersyllt. If approved by the Council's Executive Board in May 2026, the consultation will run from 2 June 2026 to 16 July 2026.

The proposal addresses the increasing demand for special school places for children with additional learning needs (ALN) in Wrexham. A significant number of children who present with social, emotional and mental health needs as their primary area for support require a more specialist setting for their learning and well-being needs to be met.

Why is the Council proposing the changes?

The Council has a strong track record for meeting a wide range of additional learning needs (ALN) with a continuum of specialist provision. Most children and young people with ALN are educated in mainstream schools. The authority continues to work with mainstream schools to be increasingly inclusive and responsive to a widening range of needs.

Over recent years, the demand for specialist school places for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) has risen in Wrexham. A significant number of children who present with social, emotional and mental health needs as their primary area for support require a more specialist setting for their learning and well-being needs to be met.

By bringing this proposal forward, the Council intends to address the rising demand for special school places. Some children present with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs meaning they struggle to manage their emotions, behaviour

and social interactions. This impacts on their learning and relationships. SEMH difficulties can stem from trauma, anxiety, ADHD or other challenges. Children who present with SEMH require nurturing learning environments, support with their social skills and therapeutic interventions to help them feel safe and understood.

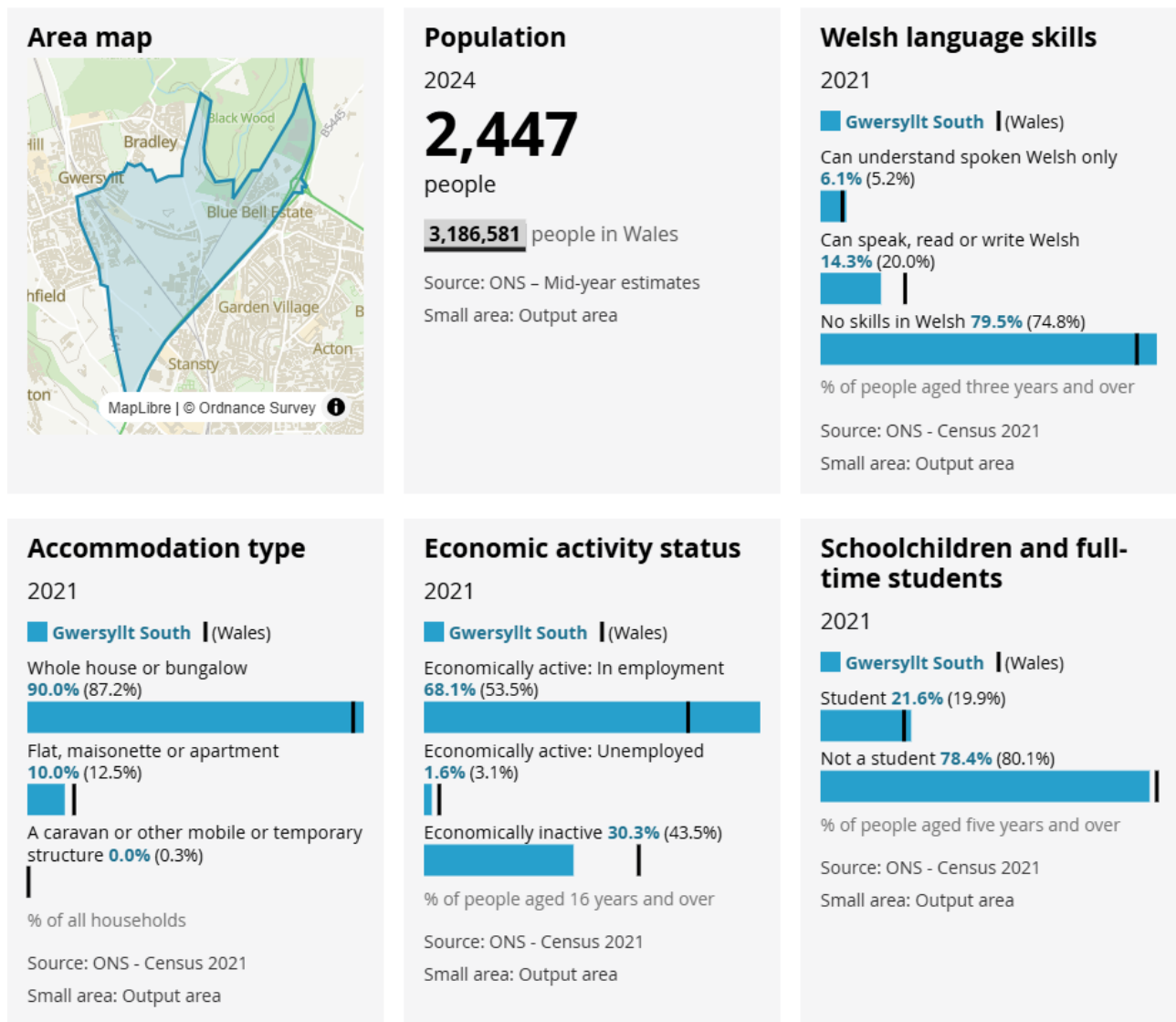
What would this proposal mean?

This proposal means that the local authority will be better able to meet the rising demand for pupils with complex additional learning needs. The new school would be an English-medium special school for pupils aged 3-11. The proposed site would be Noddfa, Dodds Lane, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, LL11 4NT.

Area Profiles - Gwersyllt South

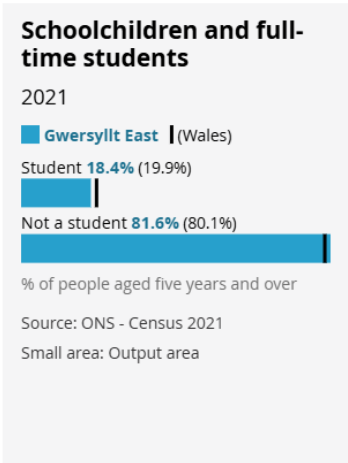
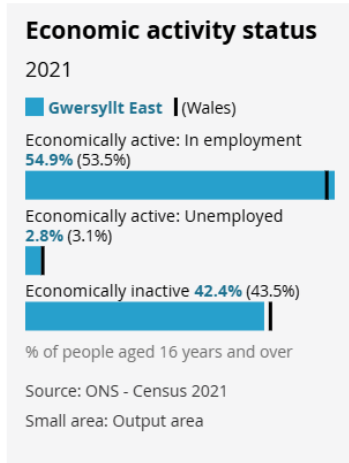
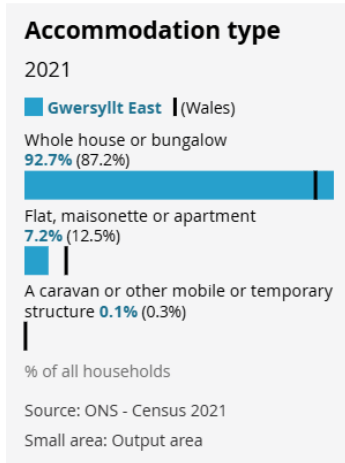
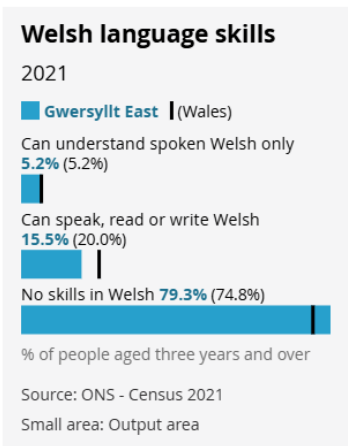
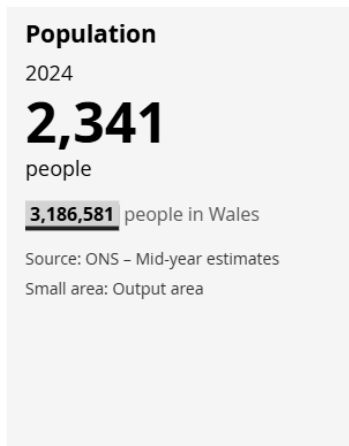
Noddfa is within the Gwersyllt South Ward. The picture below shows the area map and information on population, Welsh language skills, accommodation type, economic activity and the percentage of school children and full-time students. For further information on the Gwersyllt South Census Data, please visit [Custom Area Profile-Gwersyllt South](#) on the Office for National Statistics website.

Gwersyllt South

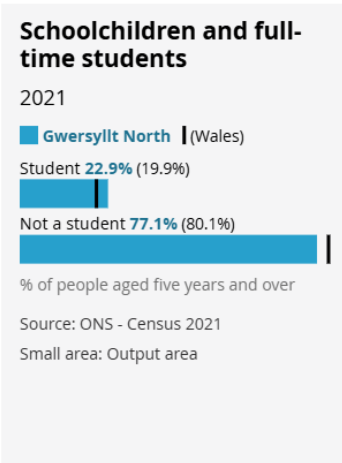
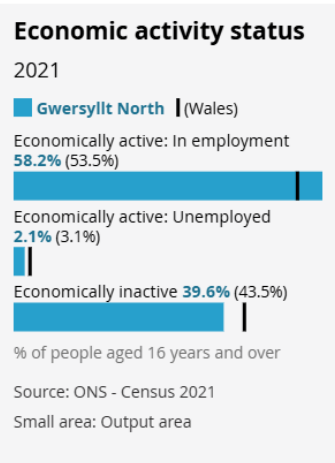
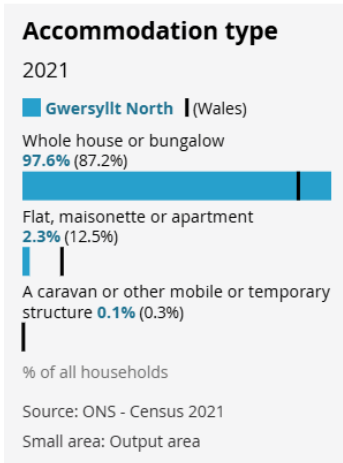
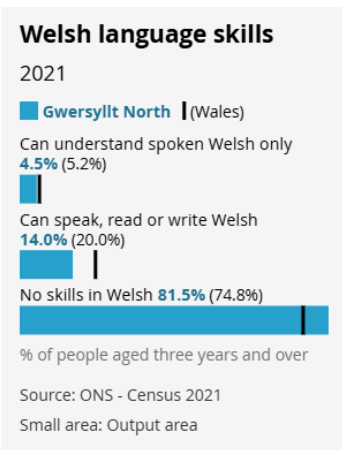
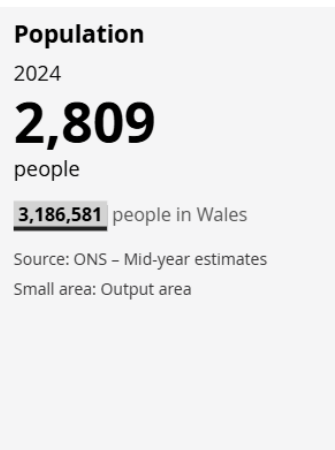
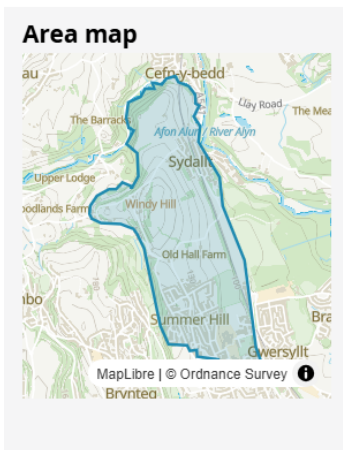


Other wards in the locality include Gwersyllt North, Gwersyllt East and Gwersyllt West. The pictures show the area map and information on population, Welsh language skills, accommodation type, economic activity and the percentage of school children and full-time students. For further information on the other wards within the locality, please visit [Explore Local Statistics](#) on the Office for National Statistics website.

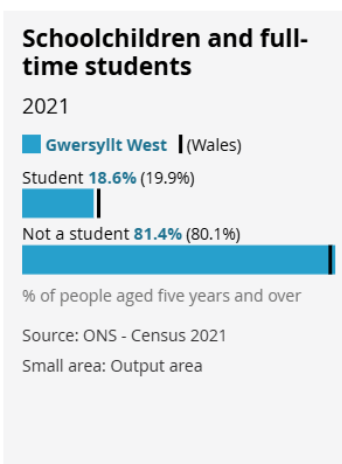
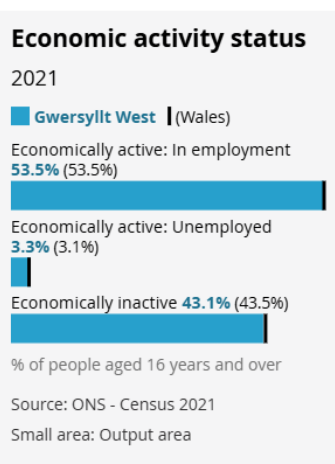
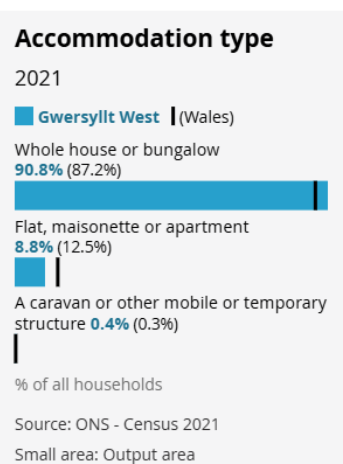
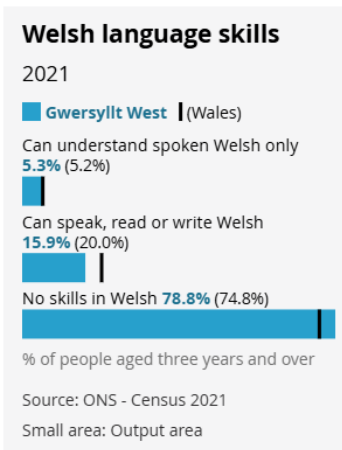
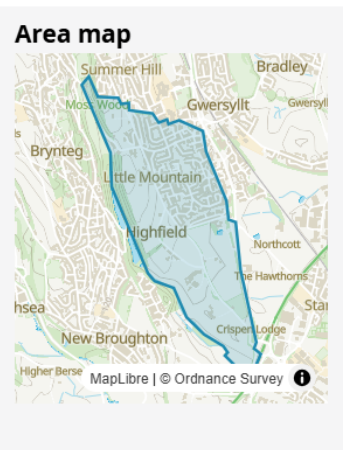
Gwersyllt East



Gwersyllt North



Gwersyllt West



The Community

Facilities and Services - Gwersyllt CP

The nearest mainstream primary school to the proposed new special school is Gwersyllt CP. The below is a list of facilities and services which Gwersyllt CP offers*.

- “Little Chicks” Nursery Plus/Playgroup
- Criw Cymraeg, Eco Committee, School Council and Digital Dynamos
- Breakfast and Playmates Club (Before/After School Care)
- Family Learning/Family Care Initiatives

**Taken from Gwersyllt CP website*

Community Services

The list below shows the community services which serve Gwersyllt and the wider local area.

- Gwersyllt Resource Centre
- Holy Trinity Church
- The War Memorial
- Children’s Playgrounds
- Multi-Use Games Area
- Football Ground
- Gwersyllt Bowling Green
- Public Transport: Train and Bus
- Convenience Store/Supermarket
- Post Office
- Household Recycling Centre
- Gwyn Evans Leisure Centre
- Dodd’s Lane Shopping Centre
- Gwersyllt Cricket Club
- Tearoom/Café at Dodds Lane Shopping Centre
- Library
- Crafting Groups
- Gardening Groups
- Church Groups
- Luncheon Club
- Slimming World Groups
- Exercise Groups
- Youth Club
- Parc Community Hub
- Community Litter Picks
- Clinic/Pharmacy
- Charity Shop
- Citizens Advice
- Integrated Autism Services
- Cylch Ti a Fi
- Lego Club
- Adult Book Club

- Hairdressers/Barbers
- Public Houses
- Defibrillators
- Country Park

Childcare Facilities in the Local Area

The table below shows the childcare services which serve Gwersyllt and the wider local area (within 3 walking miles of the proposed new special school):

Name	Type	Distance (Miles)
Little Chicks Nursery Plus	Playgroup (PG)	0.00
Janice Craig	Childminder	0.23
Aunty Jenny's Childminding	Childminder	0.36
Little Pumpkins	Childminder	0.40
Cheeky Monkey's	Childminder	0.41
Bradley Playgroup	Playgroup	0.43
S4YC @ Brambles Day Nursery	Day Nursery	0.45
Cylch Meithrin Bro Alun	Breakfast Club (BC), Playgroup	0.46
Ysgol Bro Alun	After School Club (ASC)	0.46
Giggles Childminding	Childminder	0.81
Dwylo Hapus	Childminder	0.86
Cwtch Bach	Childminder	0.90
Cylch Meithrin Plas Coch	Playgroup	1.02
Little Learners	Day Nursery	1.02
Meithrin Mwy Plas Coch	After School Club, Playgroup	1.02
Brynteg CP	Breakfast Club	1.04
Brynteg Tigers	ASC, Holiday Club (HC), PG	1.04
Garden Village Childcare	Playgroup	1.05
Incy Wincy Playgroup	Playgroup	1.05
Wat's Dyke CP School	Breakfast Club	1.05
Playland	Day Nursery, Holiday Club	1.07
Jigsaw	After School Club, Playgroup	1.14
Lucy's Childminding	Childminder	1.14
Ysgol Penrhyn	Playgroup, Breakfast Club	1.19
Berse Church Hall	Day Nursery	1.34
Berse Church	Holiday Club	1.34
Caego Day Nursery	Day Nursery	1.34
Little Scholars	Holiday Club, Day Nursery	1.37
Acorns Playgroup	Playgroup	1.40
Rhosddu School Nursery Plus	Playgroup	1.40
Acton Wraparound Care	After School Club, Playgroup	1.41
Toybox Nursery	After School Club, Holiday Club	1.41
Ty Ni	Playgroup	1.47
Dragons Daycare	Day Nursery	1.57
Saplings Nursery	Day Nursery, Holiday Club	1.57
St Mary's Pre-School	Playgroup	1.59
Peter Pan Nursery	Day Nursery	1.65
St Mary's Little Rainbows	After School Club, Playgroup	1.69

ABC Day Nursery	ASC, Day Nursery, HC	1.75
Babes in the Wood	Childminder	1.77
Little Stars	Childminder	1.81
Gresford Governors Clubs and Playgroup	ASC, BC, HC, Playgroup	1.88
Treasure Chest	AFC, BC, Day Nursery, HC	1.88
Home Grown Childminding	Childminder	1.89
Homestead Day Nursery	After School Club, Day Nursery	1.90
Aunty Alana's	Childminder	2.03
Borras Park Full Day Care	ASC, HC, Playgroup	2.03
Cherry Hill Nursery	Day Nursery	2.03
Cylch Meithrin Llan Y Pwll	Playgroup	2.03
Victoria Gem's, Jewels and Treasures	Playgroup, After School Club	2.14
Barkers Lane School	BC, HC, ASC, Playgroup	2.17
Abbeyfield Day Nursery	Day Nursery, Holiday Club	2.31
Cheryl Phillips	Childminder	2.35
Happy Days	Playgroup	2.44
Hafod Y Wern Primary School	Playgroup	2.48
Stacey Sanger	Childminder	2.49
Cylch Meithrin Bryn Tabor	Playgroup	2.53
Cath's Cubs	Childminder	2.55
Aggie House	Childminder	2.57
Flutterbyes	Childminder	2.57
Sparkles Day Nursery	Day Nursery, Holiday Club	2.57
Willow Bank Nursery	Day Nursery, Holiday Club	2.58
Marford Little Explorers Ltd	Day Nursery	2.66
Happy Kids	Childminder	2.66
Vicky's Childminding	Childminder	2.66
Temps OOSC	ASC, HC, BC, Playgroup	2.67
Aunty Lisa's	Childminder	2.69
Maria Costa	Childminder	2.88
Gwenfro Tots	Playgroup	2.90

Wider Community Safety Issues

It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse effect on wider community safety issues.

Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Community

The impact of the proposal has been considered, as shown in the table below. If an impact is anticipated to be beneficial to the community, it has been identified as positive. If an impact is anticipated to be potentially detrimental to the community, it has been identified as negative and if an impact does not significantly affect the community it has been identified as neutral.

Description	Potential Impact	Comment
Access to provision of the same Faith Designation	Neutral	No impact as no change.
Access to Provision of the Same Language Medium	Neutral	No impact as no change.
Impact on the Gwersyllt Community	Neutral/Negative	<p>Potential increase in volume of traffic at/around school pick up and drop off times at Noddfa and Gwersyllt CP.</p> <p>To mitigate this, the Local Authority will look at staggering start/end times at both schools to ease congestion.</p>
Impact on Community Demographics and Community Safety	Neutral	There should be no impact on community demographics or safety because of the proposal.
Impact on the Use of Welsh Within the Community	Neutral	Unlikely to affect the current use of Welsh within the community.
Impact on Local Businesses	Neutral	There will be limited impact on Local Businesses because of the proposal.
Impact on Neighbouring/Local Schools	Neutral	There will be limited impact on local/neighbouring schools.
Impact on Pupils	Positive	<p>It is anticipated that the proposal will have a positive impact on pupils with additional learning needs.</p> <p>Pupils will have access to facilities which are fit for</p>

		purpose and a learning environment that is better equipped to support them and their individual needs.
Impact on Parents/Carers and Families	Positive	There would be a wider choice of specialist provision for families of children with ALN
Impact on Learner Travel Arrangements Positive	Positive	The new special school will be established in Wrexham and therefore, more pupils will be able to stay in Wrexham for their education.
Impact on facilities/other services provided at the school	Positive	It is anticipated that facilities/services currently on offer at Noddfa would continue if this proposal is realised. There may be opportunity for more facilities/services to be provided if the new school is established.
Impact on Educational Provision/Educational Standards	Positive	The impact on Educational Provision/Educational Standards for the children placed at the school will be positive as each individual need will be met. It will offer sustained and improved specialist learning facilities.
Impact on Staff	Positive	It is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on staff as more teachers and support staff would be recruited to work in the new special school.
Impact on Governors	Neutral	There will be no impact on the Governors as a new Governing Body would need to be established.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the initial community impact assessment indicates that there are several neutral impacts on the community and several positive impacts on the community.

Where there are potential negative impacts, mitigations are in place to reduce any adverse residual effects and the authority would work to support staff, families and the community.

Appendix 1:

Sources of Information

- Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2026)
- Wrexham County Borough Council's School Organisation Framework (2025)
- Welsh Language Standards (2016)
- Wrexham County Borough Council's Council Plan (2023-28)
- Wrexham County Borough Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2031 (WESP)
- 2021 Census Information
- Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data
- Management Information Systems (MIS) statistical data
- Information from Gwersyllt CP website
- Information from other websites, e.g. Community Council(s)
- Information provided by the Local Authority's Childcare Team.
- Information provided by the Local Authority's ALN Team