



Consultation Document

Consultation on the Ceiriog Valley Federation of Schools

<p>Ysgol Cynddelw New Road Glyn Ceiriog Llangollen LL20 7HH</p>	<p>Pontfadog CP Pontfadog Llangollen LL20 7AH</p>	<p>Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog Nr Llangollen LL20 7LB</p>
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1. Introduction - Explanation of the Consultation Exercise

This consultation is an opportunity for staff, parents, stakeholders and the wider community to learn about the school organisation proposals put forward in your area.

Wrexham County Borough Council wishes to seek the views of interested parties.

This consultation document sets out information which consultees will need to consider to take part fully in the consultation process. The process follows regulatory guidance as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013.

The formal consultation period commences on the **9th January 2018** and ends on the **21st February 2018**

The Consultation

The information provided here and at the consultation sessions are sufficient to enable people to form a view on the options for consideration. Information gathered via this consultation will be fed back to Executive Board who will then decide whether to proceed to the next stage of the consultation, that is, publishing a Statutory proposal to make a significant change or close a school.

We are sorry that 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 during or after the consultation period.

Your comments however will be considered and responded to via the publication of a post consultation report.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members for decision making purposes.

Event	Dates
Consultation - during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken);• Writing to or emailing the council; or• Completing the response form at the end of the this booklet	9th January 2018 to 21st February 2018

Results of the consultation will go to the Executive board of Wrexham County Borough Council. The executive board will make the decision as to whether it wishes to move to the next stage of consultation	10th April 2018
Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear at the entrances to the school(s). You can make your views known at this stage by writing to or emailing the council. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	16th April 2018 to 16th May 2018
The Executive Board makes the final decision on the proposal	10th July 2018
Proposal to be implemented by	September 2019

Please note that the timetable may alter, any subsequent changes will be publicised.

The council will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

List of Consultees

- The proposed maintaining authority of Cynddelw CP, Wrexham Council Borough Council (Executive Board).
- Other local authorities, Powys County Council, Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council, Cheshire West, Shropshire.
- The Governing Body of Cynddelw CP; Pontfadog CP and Llanarmon DC (Ceiriog Valley Federation).
- Wrexham Diocese
- Parents (and where possible prospective parents) carers and guardians.
- The Welsh Ministers.
- Assembly Members: AM Llyr Gruffydd, AM Lesley Griffiths, AM Mark Isherwood, AM Ken Skates, AM Nathan Gill, AM Michelle Brown.
- Members of Parliament: MP Susan Elan-Jones, MP Ian Lucas
- Estyn.
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff.
- GwE.
- Wrexham Council's Integrated Transport Unit (ITU).
- The Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Llansantfraid Glyn Ceiriog Community Council and Glyn Traian Community Council (Pontfadog).
- Independent nursery providers in the Ceiriog area including Mudiad Meithrin

- The Children and Young People's Partnership and the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships.

Development of School Organisation Proposals

Development of school organisation proposals should have regard to overarching national policies and principles, including:

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- A Living Language: A Language for Living - Welsh Language Strategy 2012-2017;
- Welsh Medium Education Strategy;
- One Wales: One Planet, a new sustainable development scheme for Wales May 2009 or any successor strategy;
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (issued February 2011 information document number 95/2011), or any successor strategy;
- Faith in Education.

Additionally, the development of school organisation proposals should have regard to local plans, including;

- Local plans for economic or housing development;
- Welsh in education strategic plans;
- Children and young people's plans;
- 21st Century schools guidance.

Regard should also be given to Welsh Government guidance on related matters to school organisation such as:

- Learner travel operational guidance (April 2009);
- Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales.

Factors that should be taken into account by relevant bodies when preparing publishing, approving or determining school organisation proposals are as follows:

- Quality and standards in education - outcomes, provision and leadership and management;
- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools
- Resourcing of education and other financial implications.

Other general factors such as the impact of the proposal on children from economically deprived backgrounds, and any equality issues (including those identified through equality impact assessments).

Council Aspirations for Education in Wrexham

Our aim is that children and young people in Wrexham will develop essential life skills, a strong desire for lifelong learning and be very well prepared for the world of work. All children and young people will be supported to progress through the different stages of their education. Every child and young person will be entitled to a learning programme that will be personalised to make the most of his or her abilities. Children and young people will learn in an exciting and innovative range of styles and settings. These will include vocational, enterprise, voluntary, spiritual, cultural and sporting learning experiences. School organisation objectives will provide opportunities for Welsh and English medium provision, and also faith provision.

The Council is committed to continuing to raise standards, with key tasks to include securing:

- high expectations and a clear focus on improving teaching, learning and attainment in all school communities; and
- all resources available to schools being focused on improving outcomes for children and young people

2. Explanation of terms used in this document.

EAL - English as an Additional Language.

EIA - An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process designed to ensure that a policy, project or scheme does not discriminate against any disadvantaged or vulnerable people.

Statemented (SEN) – A child has a statement of Educational Need (SEN) if he or she has learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made for him/her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different education facilities from those that the school generally provides for children.

Statutory Notice – A statutory notice is the formal publication of a finalised proposal, if approved by the Councils Executive Board and will only be considered once they have received a report on all the responses from the consultation process. This is a legal requirement as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2013.

NOR (number on roll data) – the number of pupils attending school excluding nursery age pupils.

PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census. In January of every year, verified information is collected by schools for submission to Welsh Government. This includes the number of pupils enrolled in each school, their age groups, home addresses, ethnicity and data on Welsh language, Free School Meal eligibility, Special Education needs and first language.

Your Views Matter

3. How can you find out more and give your views?

There are several ways in which you can communicate your views with us. Attached to this document there is a response pro forma. This can be completed and returned to us at the address as indicated.

You may contact us via email. The email address for this correspondence is:

Ceiriogvalleyconsultation@wrexham.gov.uk

A response pro-forma is available at:

www.wrexham.gov.uk/ceiriogvalleyconsultation

You may also call to see us at the drop in sessions that will take place at Ysgol Cynddelw, Pontfadog CP School and Llanarmon DC Primary School. At these sessions you will be able to talk to Officers from the Council who will be available to answer your questions. Dates for these sessions will be circulated at a later date.

Comments will not be treated as objections at this stage.

4. The Proposals

To explore the options available to the Federation ensuring sustainability in the immediate future, providing the most effective and efficient Education services to the pupils of the Ceiriog Valley.

We are consulting on the following:

1. Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently.

Currently there are 3 schools within the Federation, 1 Welsh medium - Llanarmon, 1 English medium Pontfadog and 1 dual stream Cynddelw. There is a growing Welsh medium demand in the valley and the English medium numbers are dropping as a consequence at both Pontfadog and within the Cynddelw English medium stream, sustainability has become a significant issue within the federation and other models for delivery need to be explored.

2. Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site.

Given the sustainability issues of such a small English medium cohort within the dual stream setting, a move to Welsh medium only at Cynddelw with the English medium pupils accessing Pontfadog will provide an improved pupil experience with larger peer group and lead to a more effective and efficient education system within the Valley Federation. This also allows the opportunity to expand the number of Welsh medium places within Wrexham.

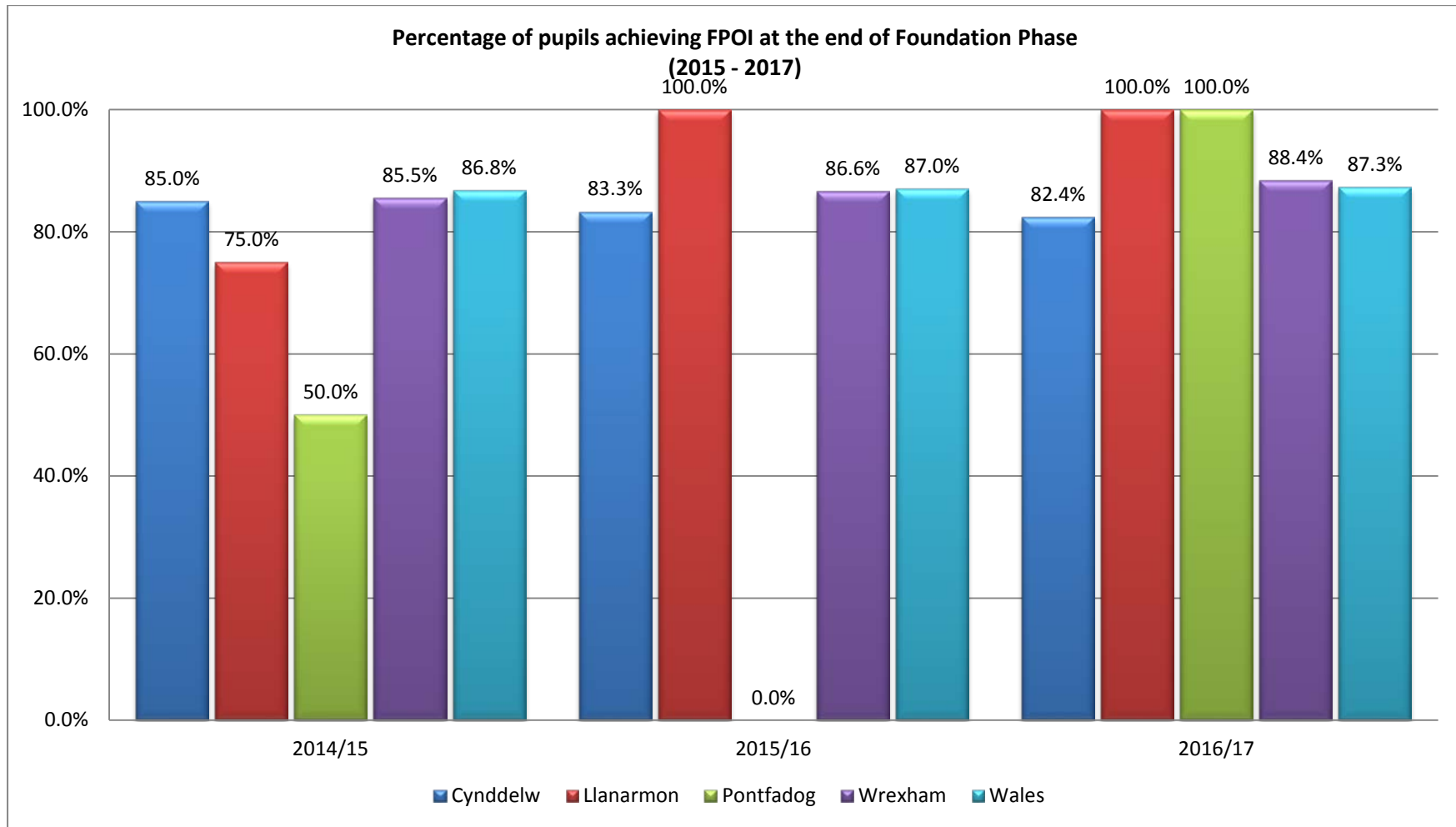
3. Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.

Given the sustainability issues of such a small English medium cohort within the dual stream setting, a move to close the English medium only school at Pontfadog and those pupils accessing a larger dual stream school will lead to a more effective and efficient education system within the Valley Federation. There would be investment required to increase the provision at Cynddelw to accommodate a larger group of pupils.

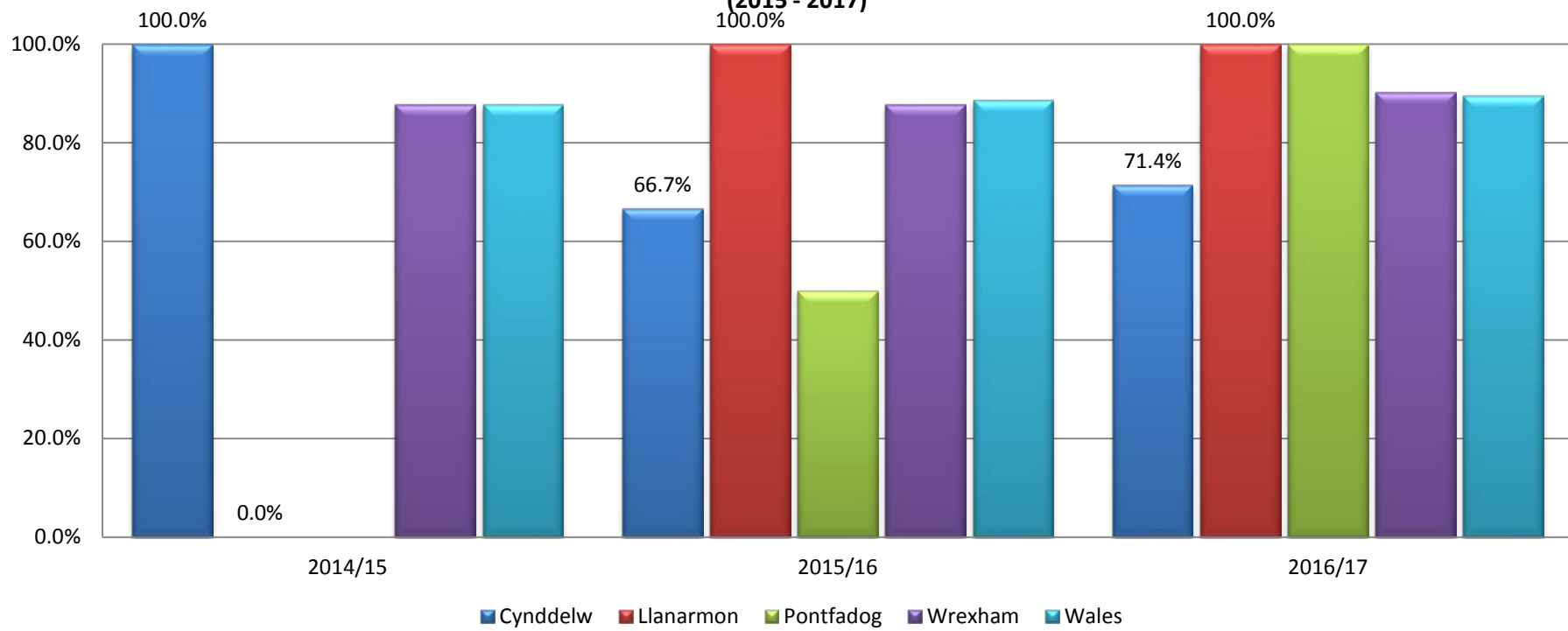
5. Why are we proposing the changes?

1. To ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness to provide the best education and value for money.
2. Supporting the Welsh Government's vision and strategy of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
3. Support the aims and objectives within Wrexham's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Language Strategy (2016).
4. The Council seeks to maintain the current high quality provision within the Ceiriog Valley Federation, there has been a growing demand for Welsh medium provision at Ysgol Cynddelw and we are experiencing very low numbers wishing to access English medium at that site.
5. If the status quo is maintained there is a risk that the low numbers of pupils accessing English medium year on year will adversely impact their social and educational experience, as resources would not be applied and used efficiently within teaching and learning.

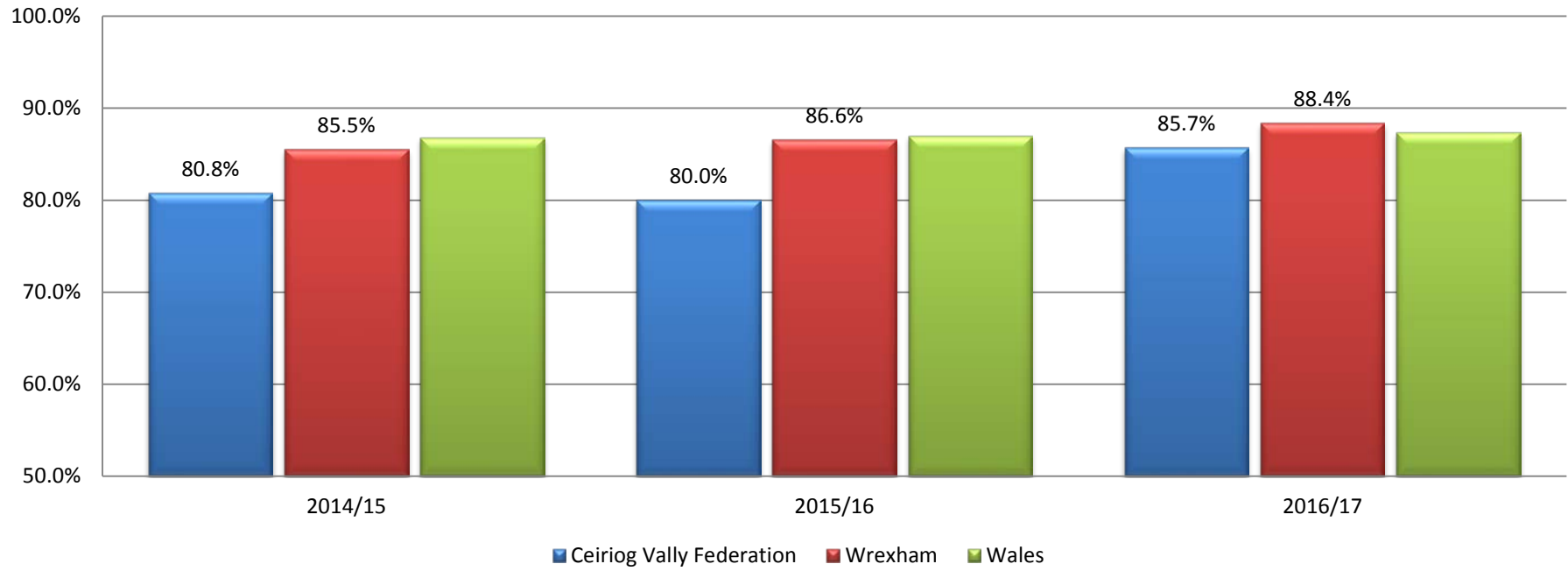
6. Educational standards and outcomes are good across the Wrexham area. The charts below display the average outcomes across the Wrexham schools and the Ceiriog Valley at the end of the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 respectively.



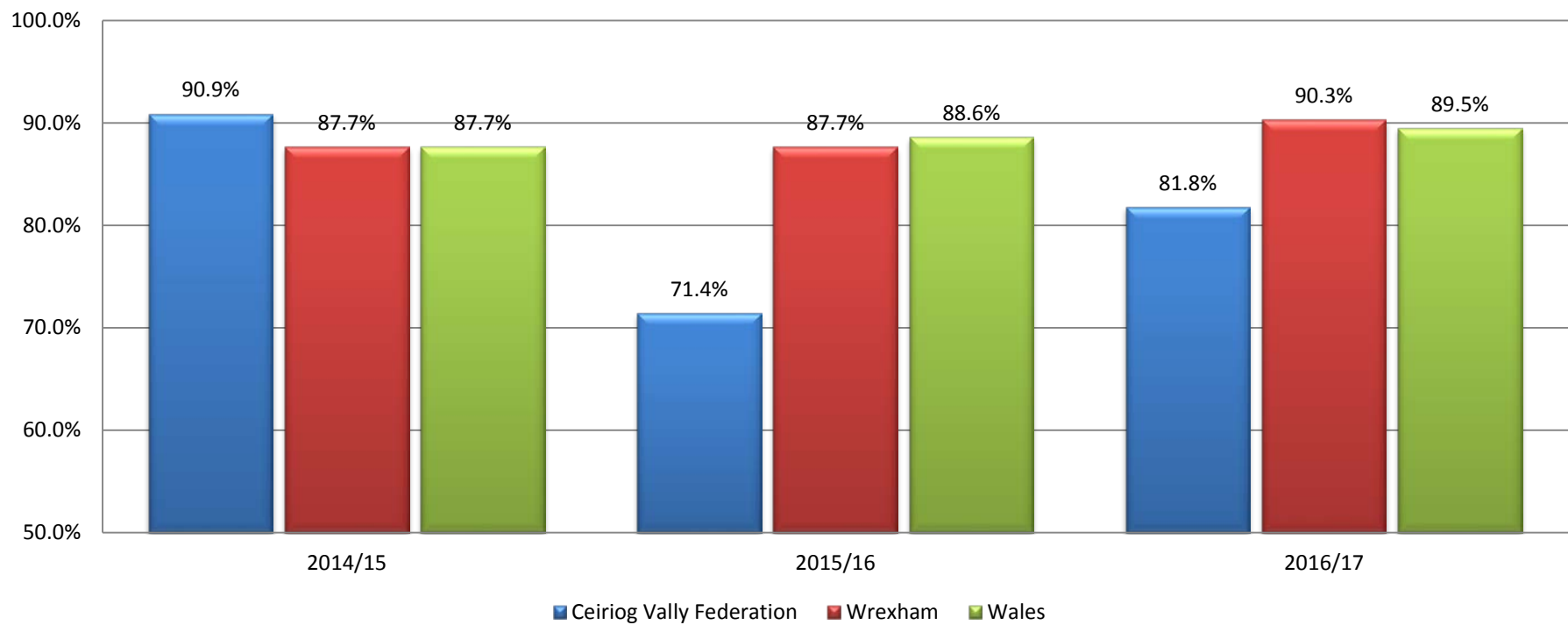
Percentage of pupils achieving CSI at the end of Key Stage 2
(2015 - 2017)



Percentage of pupils achieving FPOI at the end of Foundation Phase
(2015 - 2017)



Percentage of pupils achieving CSI at the end of Key Stage 2
(2015 - 2017)



7. Facilities included in a School

Any changes to existing school buildings required in the event of the proposal outlined above proceeding to implementation would be in accordance with The Department of Education: Area guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 99 which sets out that the following facilities need to be included in any school:

Teaching Space: internal and External
 Halls/dining area
 Learning resource areas
 Storage
 Toilets and personal care
 Kitchen facilities
 Circulation, Plant and internal walls

What we currently have within the Ceiriog federation:

School Name	Welsh Indicator/ Language Designation	Type of School: Community/V C/VA/Foundat ion	Age Range	Current Capacity	Condition Grade
Cynddelw	Dual	Community	3-11	126	B
Pontfadog	EM	Community	3-11	56	C
Llanarmon	WM	Community	3-11	49	C

Pontfadog CP School and Llanarmon CP are of the same condition grade with Cynddelw CP school being of a better condition.

8. Supply and Demand for School Places

Demand for Education in Wrexham 2006 – 2016

Year	Cohort	Welsh Cohort	% Welsh
2006	10150	861	8.5%
2007	10057	844	8.4%
2008	10007	826	8.3%
2009	9957	879	8.8%
2010	10020	923	9.2%
2011	10111	988	9.8%
2012	10222	1070	10.5%
2013	10415	1119	10.7%
2014	10688	1186	11.1%
2015	10944	1264	11.5%
2016	11179	1323	11.8%
2017	11305	1353	12.0%
2018	11307	1411	12.5%
2019	11376	1448	12.7%
2020	11310	1492	13.2%

This table demonstrates the demand for Welsh places across Wrexham County.

* Pupil numbers taken from January PLASC, does not include nursery or special class pupil numbers.

** Welsh numbers do not include Llanarmon or Cynddelw

*** 2018- 2020 projections

Demand for Welsh Education in the Ceiriog Valley Federation

Year	Ceiriog Valley Cohort	Ceiriog Valley Welsh Cohort	% Welsh
2007	174	67	38.5%
2008	157	68	43.3%
2009	147	61	41.5%
2010	141	71	50.4%
2011	143	71	49.7%
2012	148	82	55.4%
2013	140	69	49.3%
2014	144	77	53.5%
2015	145	73	50.3%
2016	150	72	48.0%
2017	140	82	58.6%

This table demonstrates the increasing demand for Welsh Education in the Ceiriog Valley Federation of schools far exceeds the % within the wider Wrexham Cohort.

Below are tables that further exemplify the consistently low numbers within the English medium stream and the growth in the demand for Welsh medium between 2012 and 2017.

Number On Roll (NOR)		Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2017	Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2016	Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2015	Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2014	Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2013	Actual NOR at 12 Jan 2012
Cynddelw	WM	62	54	57	55	50	57
	EM	36	41	46	46	48	45
Pontfadog	EM	18	22	21	19	19	19
Llanarmon	WM	24	25	21	24	23	27

The tables below show the further breakdown of pupil numbers in each year group within the Federation schools between 2012 and 2017.

Number on Roll (NOR) – Breakdown by year group

		Actual NOR at Jan 2017							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	9	8	10	9	7	8	6	5
	EM	3	0	0	8	2	10	11	2
Llanarmon	WM	4	2	4	3	2	4	4	1
Pontfadog	EM	2	2	4	1	1	3	2	3

		Actual NOR at Jan 2016							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	1	9	11	7	9	7	6	4
	EM	0	0	9	5	11	10	1	5
Llanarmon	WM	2	3	3	2	4	4	1	3
Pontfadog	EM	2	5	2	1	3	2	4	2

		Actual NOR at Jan 2015							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	9	10	7	9	7	6	5	4
	EM	0	9	5	11	9	1	5	6
Llanarmon	WM	4	2	2	4	4	1	3	1
Pontfadog	EM	5	3	1	2	3	3	3	0

		Actual NOR at Jan 2014							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	11	7	9	7	6	5	4	6
	EM	6	5	11	6	1	5	5	7
Llanarmon	WM	3	2	5	4	1	3	1	4
Pontfadog	EM	2	2	1	4	3	3	1	2

		Actual NOR at Jan 2013							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	7	10	7	6	4	4	6	6
	EM	6	9	8	2	4	6	8	5
Llanarmon	WM	1	4	4	1	3	3	4	3
Pontfadog	EM	2	1	4	3	3	1	2	2

		Actual NOR at Jan 2012							
		Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ysgol Cynddelw	WM	13	6	5	4	4	7	6	8
	EM	8	7	1	4	7	4	5	8
Llanarmon	WM	4	5	2	4	2	5	2	3
Pontfadog	EM	1	4	3	3	1	2	2	2

Calculating local demand for school places

In order to calculate the likely demand for school places it has been necessary to use geographical units of data that have historic trends specific to Wrexham County Borough Council. When considering the likely demand a number of factors have been used to inform projections and forecasts.

These include:

- Recent and historic populations known to be living in each area utilising GP data.
- Recent and historic numbers on roll taken from verified PLASC (Pupil Level Annual Census) for Wrexham Schools.
- Numbers of children resident in Wrexham County Borough Council to be on roll attending schools outside Wrexham County Borough Council.

Comparison of the population data supplied by the NHS with the number of pupils admitted to Wrexham Schools from this cohort allows the Council to project both the demand for school places and also the proportion of pupils that will opt for school places outside of Wrexham.

As documented in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020 Wrexham County Borough Council endeavours to enable all children and young people to be confident bilingual speakers through its education provision and be able to live, work and socialise comfortably through the medium of Welsh.

There is an ever increasing primary population in Wrexham, a growing proportion of whom will require Welsh medium provision for their children. The overall number of places offered for nursery and subsequently reception classes has grown from 1683 to 1847 between 2008 and September 2015. Whilst this represents an increase of 9.75%, the corresponding increase of provision with the Morgan Llwyd cluster (Welsh Medium Provision) has been 51%, increasing from 162 places to 245 places.

Current and future planning of Welsh medium provision takes into account the monitoring of demand, as well as enabling the increase in numbers accessing Welsh medium education.

9. Current Federation Arrangements by School

Ysgol Cynddelw is a community school in the village of Glyn Ceiriog near Llangollen. In September 2012, Ysgol Cynddelw federated with two other local schools within the Ceiriog Valley. There are five mixed-age classes that include a part time nursery. In the Foundation Phase, there are two classes where pupils learn solely through the medium of Welsh and one class where pupils are taught mainly in English. In key stage 2, there are two mixed-age classes. In one class, teaching is in English and in the other, predominately in Welsh.

There are 98 pupils on roll aged between 3 and 11 years. The school identifies around 16% of pupils as having additional learning needs. This is below the national average.

Around 11% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. This is also well below the national average.

Approximately 15% of pupils come from homes where Welsh is the main language.

There are very few pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds or who speak English as an additional language.

Pontfadog CP School is a small primary school in the Ceiriog Valley, in the Wrexham local authority that serves the local rural community. Since February 2012, the school, along with two other schools, has been part of the Ceiriog Valley Federation, under the leadership of one headteacher.

There are currently 18 pupils aged between 3 and 11 years on roll, including five part-time nursery children. They are taught in two mixed-age classes. The school identifies a few pupils as having additional learning needs.

None are eligible to receive free school meals.

No pupils speak Welsh as their first language at home.

Llanarmon DC is situated in the village of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, which is at the top end of the valley and in the care of Wrexham local authority. Since February 2012, the school, along with two other schools, has been part of the Ceiriog Valley Federation, under the leadership of one headteacher.

There are 24 pupils aged between 3 and 11 on roll, including 4 part-time nursery children. They are arranged into two mixed-age classes.

About a third of pupils come from homes in which Welsh is spoken as a first language.

Very few pupils are from an ethnic minority background.

There are a few pupils who have additional learning needs and not one has a statutory statement of special educational needs.

A few pupils are entitled to free school meals.

10. Options to be Consulted

Option 1

Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently.

	Requirement	Advantages	Disadvantages
Status Quo	Do Nothing - schools remain as they are currently	No Change – schools continue as they are currently	<p>Financial Cost of running very small classes</p> <p>Inefficient use of education resources</p> <p>No additional Welsh Medium school places created at Ysgol Cynddelw.</p> <p>Limited pupil experience and social activities in the English medium classes.</p> <p>Unsustainable in the longer term.</p>

Option 2

Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site.

	Requirement	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium.</p>	<p>Change of category for Cynddelw from dual stream to Welsh medium</p> <p>English medium pupils from 2019 to attend Ysgol Pontfadog subject to parental preference.</p>	<p>Improved pupil experience.</p> <p>Additional Welsh medium school places created at Cynddelw.</p> <p>No physical changes to the school required</p> <p>Pupils requiring English medium will have access to one of the other schools within the same federation or another school subject to parental preference.</p> <p>Efficient and effective use of education resources.</p> <p>Pupils accessing school with the language of choice in sufficient numbers to establish peer groups.</p> <p>Ample opportunities for social interaction in peer groups.</p> <p>Increased efficiency and</p>	<p>Pupils requiring English medium access an alternative school which may be further from their home address.</p> <p>English medium teachers may be subject to relocation within the federation.</p> <p>Lack of pupil numbers accessing the English medium stream may result in redundancy or redeployment.</p>

		<p>effectiveness to provide the best Education for the pupils within the Federation.</p> <p>Federation more sustainable in the longer term.</p>	
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Option 3

Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.

	Requirement	Advantages	Disadvantages
Closure of Ysgol Pontfadog	<p>Ysgol Cynddelw remains Dual Stream</p> <p>Relocate English medium pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.</p> <p>Re use or sale of Pontfadog school site.</p>	<p>Increased efficiency and effectiveness to provide the best Education for the pupils within the Federation.</p> <p>Efficient use of education resources.</p> <p>Increased efficiency and effectiveness to provide the best value for money.</p> <p>Federation more sustainable in the longer term.</p>	<p>Pupils will access an alternative school which may be further from their home address.</p> <p>Possible initial difficulties in integration for pupils at a larger school.</p> <p>Teachers and support staff may be subject to relocation to other sites within the federation or be in a redeployment situation.</p> <p>No Additional Welsh medium school places created at Ysgol Cynddelw.</p>

			No additional Welsh medium school places created.
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11. Interim Arrangements

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently	None Required	None Required	None Required
Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site	None Required	None Required	Transport
Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.	Reorganisation of classroom spaces, possible extension.	None Required	Transport Redundant site

12. Impact of proposals on surrounding Schools

Impact described as above and throughout this document, as all schools in the area are within the Federation in question.

13. How would Nursery Provision be Affected?

What provision is there currently?

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Current Provision	Cylch Meithrin Glyn Ceiriog is located within Cynddelw CP. Cylch Ti a Fi (Welsh toddler group) in Glyn Ceiriog feeds the Cylch Meithrin which in turn feeds the school. The Ti a Fi is run by an organisation called Mudiad Meithrin.	Early Education setting.	Early Education setting.

Possible Impact on Nursery Provision:

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently	Nursery will not be affected.	Nursery will not be affected	Nursery will not be affected
Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site	Nursery will not be affected.	Nursery will not be affected.	Additional English medium nursery pupils.
Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.	Additional English medium nursery pupils.	Nursery will not be affected.	Closure of Early Education setting (accommodated at Cynddelw)

14. Quality and Standards

The Council works closely with the governing bodies of schools to ensure that standards in schools are high, that teaching is good and that leadership and governance is strong. The Council works closely with two organisations in order to monitor the performance of schools and to support school improvement.

- **ESTYN**

Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and training in Wales. It is a crown body, established under the Education Act 1992. Estyn is independent of the National Assembly for Wales but receives its funding from the Welsh Government under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998. Estyn inspects quality and standards in education and training providers in Wales.

Schools are inspected as part of a national programme of school inspection. The purpose of an inspection is to identify good features and shortcomings in schools in order that they may improve the quality of education offered and raise standards achieved by their pupils. Estyn Inspection Reports provide grades against key questions and provide schools with recommendations for improvement

- **GwE**

GwE is the Regional School Effectiveness Service for North Wales and works in partnership with the six Local Authorities (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire) to improve standards of education and improved outcomes for pupils by ensuring effective leadership at all levels and quality teaching and learning in all classrooms.

GwE aims to provide North Wales with an efficient and effective, fully bilingual service in order to raise standards and make a difference for children and young people. It aims to:

- maintain firm new systems for performance in order to improve efficiency;
- raise standards - improve literacy and numeracy;

- promote well-being; raise aspirations, improve pupils' resilience as learners;
- improve outcomes and reduce variation between and within schools;

A report on <u>Cynddelw School</u> February 2016	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6652139
Current performance	Adequate
Prospects for improvement	Adequate

A report on <u>Pontfadog School</u> date March 2015	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6652143
Current performance	Adequate
Prospects for improvement	Adequate

A report on <u>Llanarmon School</u> September 2014	https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6652140
Current performance	Good
Prospects for improvement	Good

Evaluation of the Impact of the Proposal on the Quality and Standard of Education

It is the view of the Council that should the current proposal be implemented it would maintain and continue to improve the current standard and quality of education within the area. The review has set out to address challenges within the area that have the potential to impact upon the sustainability of high quality provision in the future. This proposal seeks to maintain the current standard with a view to strengthening and improving educational provision within the area.

- Outcomes (standards and wellbeing)
- Provision (learning experiences, teaching, care, support and guidance, and learning environment)
- Leadership and Management (Leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)

15. How would Special Educational Needs (SEN) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) be affected? Provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Current SEN Provision	No resourced provision	No resourced provision	No resourced provision

There will be no impact on any resourced provision for SEN pupils under any of the options.

There will be no change for any mainstream pupils that require additional support.

EAL support will remain unaffected by any of the proposed options.

16 Risks Associated with the Proposals

The risks to the stakeholders are minimal. Risks are thoroughly mitigated as follows:

- **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).**
- **Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WIA)**
- **Transport Impact Assessment.(TIA)**
- **Community Impact Assessment (CIA)**

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 above risks and disadvantages the impact on pupils/parents/carers/teachers and support staff can be minimised.

17. Admissions Arrangements

Admission arrangements will remain in line with the Council's Admissions Procedures.

The Admissions Policy can be found on:

https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/assets/pdfs/education/admissions/parents_guide.pdf

18. Finance: Costs and Funding

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.

Current Federation deficit minus £17,908

Option 1. Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently.

Deficit budget continues

Option 2. Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium

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

In a full financial year, the saving would equate to £98,700.

Option 3. Retain the Dual-stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site

Of the current delegated budget for Pontfadog, the sum of the budget that is allocated without reference to the number of pupils on roll is £98,550.

Should Pontfadog CP site be closed, the revenue saving in the delegated budget would be £98,550.

Any capital receipts from disposal of Pontfadog will be reinvested into the Education portfolio.

The portion of the budget that relates to pupils would form part of the budget for the school(s) to which the Pontfadog pupils would transfer to. Increased revenue budget required for additional pupils, pupils are already taught elsewhere so not an increase rather a re-distribution of funding.

| Possible impact in transport costs (as yet unknown, as subject to individual qualification and parental preference).- Should current English medium pupils relocate to the alternative sites. If they remain at Cynddelw for the remainder of their Primary education this will not be a factor.

Any capital receipts from disposal are re invested into the Education portfolio.

19. Staff Impact

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently	None	None	None
Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site	Depending on pupil numbers some staff may have to be redeployed or teach at an alternative site	None	None
Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.	None	None	Staff may have to be redeployed or teach at an alternative site

20. Transport Arrangements

	Cynddelw	Llanarmon	Pontfadog
Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently	None	None	None
Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site	English pupils transport to Pontfadog (subject to qualification under the Transport Policy)	None	None
Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-	None	None	Transport for pupils to a school of preference (subject

locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site.			to qualification under the Transport Policy)
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WCBC transport policy can be found:

http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/education/Transport_Policy.htm

There are no safe walking routes in the areas surrounding the 3 schools.

21. Welsh language Impact Assessment

A Welsh language impact assessment was carried out in November 2017.

22. Impact of the Proposal on the Church in Wales Provision

The proposal neither enhances nor impacts negatively on the Church in Wales Provision.

23. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in November 2017.

24. Sustainability

(Option 1 - Status Quo – all three schools remain as they are currently)

The status quo is unsustainable in the medium to long term because:-

The current school provision in the Ceiriog Valley satisfies the local demand for Welsh medium places. However Ysgol Cynddelw has insufficient applications for pupils wishing to access English medium to sustain its current dual stream status. Pontfadog also has very small cohort sizes.

(Option 2 - Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site)

The proposal to create a fully Welsh medium provision at Cynddelw, and therefore redirect those pupils that require an English medium education to Pontfadog within the federation, will create a more efficient use of the school estate and educational resources.

(Option 3 - Retain the Dual-Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site)

The proposal to create maintain a dual stream provision at Cynddelw, and therefore close Pontfadog within the federation, will create a more efficient use of the school estate and educational resources.

25. Community Impact Assessment

A community impact assessment was carried out in November 2017.

26. Next Steps – How to make your views known

There are several ways in which you can communicate your views with us. Attached to this document there is a response pro forma. This can be completed and returned to us at the address as indicated.

You may contact us via email. The email address for this correspondence is:

Ceiriogvalleyconsultation@wrexham.gov.uk

A response pro-forma is available at:

www.wrexham.gov.uk/ceiriogvalleyconsultation

You may also call to see us at the drop in sessions that will take place at Cynddelw CP School, Pontfadog CP School and Llanarmon DC Primary School. At these sessions you will be able to talk to Officers from the Council who will be available to answer your questions. Dates for these sessions will be circulated at a later date.

Comments will not be treated as objections at this stage.

27. Key Dates

Consultation Exercise – 9th January 2018 to 21st February 2018

Consultation Report to Executive Board – 10th April 2018

Publication of Statutory Notice & Objection Period – 16th April 2018 to 16th May 2018

Report to Executive Board & Decision – 10th July 2018

28. What Happens Next

Consultation Report

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

- summarise each of the issues raised by consultees;
- respond to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.
- set out Estyn's view (as provided in its consultation response) of the overall merits of the proposal.

The consultation report may also make recommendations – for example, to the local authority's executive – 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 significantly recast the proposals and re-consult.

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

The consultation report will be published electronically, on the schools and the Council's website. In addition, hard copies will be made available on request.

The Statutory Process

The consultation process is subject to the requirements of the School Organisation Code, document number 006/2013.

Following the end of this consultation, **21st February 2018**, the Council will publish a report on the consultation which will be available on the Council's website.

Council officers will then present the report to the Executive Board on **10th April 2018**.

If the recommendation is accepted by the Executive Board then a statutory notice will be issued and a 28 day objection period will begin. A report will be published on the views expressed to the Council during the objection period, and will be available on the Council's website.

29. Consultation Period

This consultation period will start on **9th January 2018**. See page 34-36 for further details of how to respond and make your views known.

Within 13 weeks of **21st February 2018** a consultation report will be published on the Wrexham County Borough Council website. Hard copies of the report will also be made available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees during the consultation period and provide the Council's response to these issues.

The Council's Executive Board will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposals.

Responses to this consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposal and that objections can only be registered following publication of the notice.

30. Publication of Statutory Notices

This will run dependant on the outcome of the consultation.

The statutory notice would be published on Wrexham County Borough Councils website and displayed at or near the main entrance to the sites subject to the notice. Copies of the notice would be made available to the schools identified in the notice. The notice will set out the dates of the proposals and invites anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within the period specified.

31. Determination of Proposals

The results of the statutory notice will be taken before the Council's Executive Board on **10th July 2018**.

32. Decision Notification

Following the decision of the Executive Board 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.

33. Response Pro-forma

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



CONSULTATION RESPONSE PROFORMA

Consultation on the Ceiriog Valley Federation of Schools

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

Your Comments: Option 2 - Change Language designation at Ysgol Cynddelw to Welsh medium with any new English Medium pupils being allocated to the Ysgol Pontfadog site

Your Comments: Option 3 - Retain the Dual Stream status of Ysgol Cynddelw, close Ysgol Pontfadog and re-locate pupils to the Ysgol Cynddelw dual stream site:

Further Comments for Consideration:

Name and Address:

Please tick box if you wish to be notified of the publication of the consultation report

Please Note: This sheet is for consultation purposes only. All comments will be considered within the consultation process, however, individual responses will not be provided.

Please return this form to:
Dafydd Ifans (Ceiriog Valley Consultation)
Head of Education Infrastructure & Support Services
Lambpit Street, Wrexham
LL11 1AR

Or you can e-mail your views to Ceiriogvalleyconsultation@wrexham.gov.uk

This consultation document can also be found www.wrexham.gov.uk/ceiriogvalleyconsultation