

Proposal to increase the pupil capacity at St Mary's Church in Wales (CIW) Voluntary Aided (VA) School, Brymbo from 154 to 210 with the potential to increase further to 315 if required as a result of future housing developments.

Statutory Consultation Document



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 the Access and School Places Team, Education and Early Intervention Department, Crown Buildings, 31 Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

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Introduction-Explanation of the Consultation Exercise

Wrexham County Borough Council has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools in the area to ensure that it is making the best use of the resources available. The Council also have a duty to ensure that the children and young people of Wrexham are being afforded the education and the learning opportunities they deserve.

The Welsh Government's "Sustainable Communities for Learning" programme is a long-term and strategic capital investment programme which helps to:

- Transfer learning environments and learner experience;
- Meet demand for school places;
- Improve the condition and suitability of the education estate;
- Develop sustainable learning environments;
- Support the community.

Description of the Proposal

The Council wishes to seek the views of interested parties regarding the proposal to increase the pupil capacity at St Mary's Church in Wales (CIW) Voluntary Aided (VA) School, Brymbo from 154 to 210 from September 2025, with the potential to increase further to 315 if required as a result of future housing developments. The new school will be designed in a way that will allow future expansion easily if the need to increase numbers to 315 is realised.

This proposal is considered under Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code (2018). Section 2.3 of the School Organisation Code refers to 'Regulated Alterations' which includes:

- "An enlargement of the premises of a school (excluding nursery and special schools), which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils as compared with the school's capacity on the appropriate date" (PG 21)

Development of Schools Organisation Proposals

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

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (2011)
- Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers
- Welsh Language Standards (2016)
- Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- Welsh-Medium Education Strategy (2010)
- One Wales: One Planet: a new sustainable development scheme for Wales (2009)
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (2015) and Tackling Poverty Action Plan
- Faith in Education (2011)
- The Equality Act 2010
- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Additionally, school organisation proposals should have regard to local plans and policies including:

- The Council Plan

- Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024
- Involvement Strategy 2022-2027
- Local Plans for Economic or Housing Development
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022)
- Wrexham Council's Welsh Language Policy for schools
- Wrexham Council's Transport Policy

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

- School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
- School Organisation Code Second Edition (2018)
- School Admissions Code (2013)
- Learner Travel: Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance (2014)
- Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales (2011)
- Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme: Guidance for Delivery Partners to Transition to the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme of Investment (2023)

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

- Quality and Standards in Education
- Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools
- Resourcing of education and other financial implications
- Impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds
- Any equality issues, including those identified by an equality impact assessment
- Whether the affected school is subjected to any trust or charitable interests

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.

A supplementary version of this consultation document has been made available to pupils in the school council at St Mary's CIW VA School to enable them to give their and the view of all pupils on matters which directly affect their school. This version has been written specifically to enable the children to better understand and engage with the formal consultation process. A child-led session with the school council will be undertaken during the consultation period and the pupils' views will be taken into account when publishing the post-consultation report.

List of Consultees

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

- Wrexham County Borough Council (Executive Board)
- The Church in Wales and Catholic Dioceses
- Other Local Authorities: Flintshire County Council and Denbighshire County Council
- The Governing Body of St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
- The governing body of other schools which the proposed considers are likely to be affected by the proposals
- All Wrexham Primary and Secondary Schools
- Parents/Carers (and prospective parents/carers) of St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
- Staff members of St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
- Welsh Ministers and Assembly Members
- Local Members of Parliament
- Estyn and GwE
- Trade unions representing teachers and staff at St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
- Wrexham Council's School Transport Department
- The Police and Crime Commissioner
- Brymbo Community Council
- Local Communities First Partnerships
- Local Independent Nursery Providers and Flying Start Providers
- The Children and Young People's Partnerships
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnerships

Note: This list is not exhaustive and this consultation is open to all who wish to take part.

Consultation Period

The consultation period for this proposal starts on 23rd October 2023 and ends on 4th December 2023.

To request a hard copy of the consultation document please email

StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk

Considering your Views

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

- Emailing your views to StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk
- Fill in the consultation response form - online version available here: [Your Voice - Wrexham \(yourvoicewrexham.com\)](https://www.yourvoicewrexham.com)

Alternatively, you can submit your views in writing to: St Mary's CIW VA School Brymbo Consultation, Education, Crown Buildings, 31 Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

You may also call to see us at the drop in sessions that will take place at the school and within the community during the consultation period. At these sessions you will be able to talk to officers from the Council who will be available to answer your questions. Please note that the below timetable may alter and any changes will be publicised.

Timetable of Drop-In Sessions

Nature of Session	Date	Time	Venue
Drop-In Session (Half Term)*	Tuesday 31 st October 2023	2:00pm-4:00pm	Brymbo Enterprise Centre
Drop-In Session (Morning)	Tuesday 7 th November 2023	8:45am-9:30am	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Drop-In Session (Afternoon)	Friday 10 th November 2023	2:30pm-3:30pm	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Drop-In Session (Evening)	Tuesday 14 th November 2023	3:15pm-6:00pm	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Drop-In Session (Evening)	Wednesday 15 th November 2023	3:15pm-6:00pm	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Drop-In Session (Afternoon)	Thursday 23 rd November 2023	2:30pm-3:30pm	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Drop-In Session (Morning)	Friday 24 th November 2023	8:45am-9:30am	St Mary's School, Brymbo
Virtual Session** (Morning)	Monday 6 th November 2023	12 noon	Online link to be shared via email
Virtual Session** (Evening)	Monday 6 th November 2023	7pm	Online link to be shared via email

**Please note that the drop-in session during half term will take place in Brymbo Enterprise Centre, Blast Road, Brymbo, Wrexham LL11 5BT and not in the school.*

***To request access to the virtual session please email:*

StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk

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.

Your comments 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.

Timetable of Key Dates

Please note that the below timetable may alter and any changes will be publicised.

Event	Dates
The Consultation Period During this time you can make your views known by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attending the drop in sessions (notes will be taken)• Writing to or emailing the council• Completing the response form at the end of this booklet	23 rd October 2023- 4 th December 2023
Consultation Report Presented to Executive Board	9 th April 2024
Statutory Notice Published and Formal Objection Period Begins	29 th April 2024
Formal Objection Period Ends	7 th June 2024
Executive Board Determines Final Decision on the Proposal	September 2024
Decision Notification Presented to Consultees	September 2024
Implementation of the Proposal to Increase the Capacity	31 st August 2025

**consultation timescales may be subject to change, in this event we would publicise any changes*

The Proposal

It is the view of the Council that the current school is unsuitable, both in terms of scope for extension and in terms of offering the facilities required to successfully deliver the modern curriculum. Due to a large proposed housing development in Brymbo, the current site is also deemed unsuitable to meet future predicted demand for school places.

This proposal hopes to address the above by:

- Increasing the pupil capacity from 154 to 210 from September 2025, with the potential to increase further to 315 if required as a result of future housing developments. The new school would be designed in a way that will allow future expansion easily if the need to increase numbers to 315 is realised.
- Building a new school on a new site within a mile to accommodate the increase in capacity and to provide a modern, practical learning environment.

Details of the Affected School

Name of the School	St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
Location of the School	Bryn Coch, Ael-Y-Bryn, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5DA
Age Range	3-11
School Category	Church in Wales Voluntary Aided
Language Medium	English Medium
Current Capacity	154
Surplus Places (Jan 2023)	41
Building Condition Category	B (Assessed December 2022)
Building Suitability Grade	D (Assessed December 2022)

Year	Total Full Time Pupils on Roll (excluding pupils in Resource Provision)	Surplus
2018/2019 (Jan)	109	45
2019/2020 (Jan)	108	46
2020/2021 (Jan)	94	60
2021/2022 (Jan)	102	52
2022/2023 (Jan)	113	41

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. *Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included*

Year	Total Full Time (excluding pupils in Resource Provision) Pupil Projections	Surplus
2023/2024 (Jan)	108	46
2024/2025(Jan)	97	57
2025/2026(Jan)	98	56
2026/2027(Jan)	95	59
2027/2028(Jan)	97	57

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. *Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included*

The proposed housing development of 300 dwellings is expected to generate approximately 61 primary aged pupils. This figure has been generated using the formula outlined in Wrexham Council's LPG No. 27. If the number of dwellings on the development were to increase from 300 to 450 (subject to planning permission being granted), the number of primary aged pupils generated would increase from 61 to 80. Based on this information and the pupil projection data gathered, additional capacity will be required in order to accommodate pupils from the new housing development.

Rationale for Change

The present St Mary's CIW VA School is a converted secondary school dating back to the 1940s. It is situated in the hilly, rural village of Brymbo on the outskirts of the City of Wrexham. The rationale for this project, as well as to increase capacity, is to create an improved, high quality learning environment on a larger site to help meet the predicted future demand for school places in the area once the proposed housing development has been completed.

The selection of the new school site allows the Council and the Diocese to design a school with flexibility of space usage in mind as well as build in future flexibility to enable spaces to be changed. It would also alleviate the need to use temporary accommodation as demand increases and avoids possible overcrowding at alternative sites.

The new building will be designed with input from the school and the Diocese to ensure that it remains in keeping with the school's ethos and supports the school's vision for the delivery of the modern curriculum.

If the status-quo was to be maintained, it is likely that the school would not be able to accommodate the future predicted demand for school places in the Brymbo area.

Adequacy of Current School Accommodation

Over the years, there have been various adaptations and refurbishments made to the current site which have enabled the school to function adequately. However, the current building does not now offer suitable accommodation for the delivery of the new curriculum for Wales, first published in 2020.

Consideration was given to extend the current school site as an alternative to this proposal. However, the current school building has been placed in Category B and has been deemed unsuitable for extension due to the site being land-locked. It is currently placed on a steep hill with restricted parking, poor vehicular access and a limited outside playground area. The school currently utilises a playing field situated 1km away from the building which pupils must access by crossing a busy road. This field is prone to flooding which sometimes renders the space unusable for sporting and recreational activities.

With the proposal of new housing in the area, the current accommodation is unsuitable to meet the requirements of the new curriculum and the future predicted demand for school places in the village of Brymbo and surrounding area.

Interim Measures

In this project, interim measures would not be necessary due to the development of a new school building on a new site. There will be no decanting necessary and this should alleviate any disruption to pupils, parents and teachers.

Sustainability / Supporting the Community

As part of the ongoing commitment of the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030, the new school will be designed and constructed to BREEAM excellence standards. The project will include low carbon, energy efficient and innovative features in order to meet Welsh Governments requirements for Net Zero in operation.

The Council and the Dioceses' vision is to deliver a school that has clear connectivity to the natural world so that learners of all ages can discover and uncover solutions to the issues that we face around carbon emissions, climate change and biodiversity loss. The design will aim to include appropriate habitats for our natural species and will aim to bring the natural environment into the learning space through the introduction of biophilic features e.g. living walls. It is also anticipated that the modern and innovative design will allow the wider community of Brymbo to have use of an eco-friendly and energy efficient space outside of school hours.

Supply and Demand for School Places in Faith Schools

When the Council is reviewing the types of schools available in the area, they must ensure that there is an appropriate geographic spread of English-medium, Welsh-medium and Faith-provision schools. This aims to ensure that parents have a real choice in terms of education for their children. A better geographic spread of Faith-provision schools will impact positively on current transport related costs. It also makes active and sustainable travel to access Faith-provision schools more viable which helps to reduce transport related carbon emissions.

Proposed Year Group Sizes

It is proposed that we carefully manage the growth of the school to ensure sustainability and to avoid additional surplus places within the higher year groups. In order for the school to manage the growth, it is proposed that the admission number is increased yearly from September 2025.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on a phased basis commencing September 2025 as follows:

Phase 1 – On 1st September 2025 the school will increase its published admission number from 22 to 30/45 pupils for Nursery and from 22 to 30/45 pupils for Reception on entry each year. All current year groups will remain at 22.

Phase 2 – On 1st September 2026 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception. The existing pupils in reception will progress to Year 1.

Phase 3 – On 1st September 2027 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1 and 2.

Phase 4 – On 1st September 2028 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2 and 3.

Phase 5 – On 1st September 2029 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Phase 6 – On 1st September 2030 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Phase 7 – On 1st September 2031 up to 30/45 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30/45 pupils admitted to Reception and the existing pupils will progress to Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

The school's new pupil capacity will be 210/315 plus 30/45 part time nursery places.

This means that the increase in capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo would be fully complete by September 2031 as evidenced in the tables below.

2024/2025 (Jan) 2025 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	16*	22	16*	22
2	6-7	15*	22	15*	22
3	7-8	19*	22	19*	22
4	8-9	13*	22	13*	22
5	9-10	19*	22	19*	22
6	10-11	14*	22	14*	22

*Projected number on roll.

2025/2026 (Jan) 2026 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	16*	22	16*	22
3	7-8	15*	22	15*	22
4	8-9	19*	22	19*	22
5	9-10	13*	22	13*	22
6	10-11	19*	22	19*	22

*Projected number on roll

2026/2027 (Jan) 2027 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	45	45	30	30
3	7-8	16*	22	16*	22
4	8-9	15*	22	15*	22
5	9-10	19*	22	19*	22
6	10-11	13*	22	13*	22

*Projected number on roll

2027/2028 (Jan) 2028 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	45	45	30	30
3	7-8	45	45	30	30
4	8-9	16*	22	16*	22
5	9-10	15*	22	15*	22
6	10-11	19*	22	19*	22

*Projected number on roll

2028/2029 (Jan) 2029 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	45	45	30	30
3	7-8	45	45	30	30
4	8-9	45	45	30	30
5	9-10	16*	22	16*	22
6	10-11	15*	22	15*	22

*Projected number on roll

2029/2030 (Jan) 2030 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	45	45	30	30
3	7-8	45	45	30	30
4	8-9	45	45	30	30
5	9-10	45	45	30	30
6	10-11	16*	22	16*	22

*Projected number on roll

2030/2031 (Jan) 2031 Entry					
Year Group	Age	Proposed Pupils on Roll (315)	Admission Number (315)	Proposed Pupils on Roll (210)	Admission Number (210)
Nursery	3-4	45	45	30	30
Reception	4-5	45	45	30	30
1	5-6	45	45	30	30
2	6-7	45	45	30	30
3	7-8	45	45	30	30
4	8-9	45	45	30	30
5	9-10	45	45	30	30
6	10-11	45	45	30	30

*Projected number on roll

Impact of the Proposal

Potential Advantages of Implementing the Proposal

If the proposal is implemented, it is expected that the following advantages will be realised:

- A positive impact on the well-being of pupils as they will be learning in a larger learning environment with more modern resources available; leading to greater pupil engagement and enjoyment in learning due to new surroundings.
- New permanent pupil accommodation which is fit for purpose and which will help to meet future growing demand for school places in the area.
- Faith schools would have an overall increase in capacity and more children would be able to attend a faith school close to their home address.
- No additional transport responsibility for the LA as pupils would not be required to be transported to their next nearest faith school.

- Helps to ease oversubscription at other schools in the surrounding area.
- The proposal will ensure the delivery of the full curriculum for Wales, at the foundation phase and each key stage of education.

**The above list is not exhaustive*

Potential Disadvantages of Implementing the Proposal

- If the proposal is implemented, it is expected that the following disadvantages will arise: The current school site is familiar to pupils and moving to a new building on a new site may disrupt those learners who find a change in routine difficult.
- Some pupils and parents may have to travel slightly further to access the new school site than they do currently (e.g. if they live very close to the current site).

Potential Risks and Mitigations

There may be some risks associated with this proposal. The potential risks and how these may be mitigated should they arise are listed below.

- Planning permission for the new housing development may not be granted. This risk, whilst not in the direct control of the Education Department, may be mitigated by the planning appeal process should permission be denied.
- The Council occasionally sees an increase in pupil transfers from other schools in an area when a new school has been built. Should this happen, it may result in other schools in the area losing pupils. However, previous data shows that this is only a short term risk and therefore, mitigation measures are not required.

Summary of the Advantages, Disadvantages and Risks

In light of the above advantages, disadvantages and risks, it is the view of the Council that the longer term benefits of the proposal, such as an increase of pupil places in an area of proposed future demand, outweigh any disadvantages or risks. Any potential risks will be carefully managed and mitigated wherever possible.

Impact on Surrounding Schools

It is anticipated that by permanently increasing the capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School there should be some relief afforded to other schools in the area. This is evidenced below.

Primary School (Within 2 miles walking distances of proposed site)	Language Medium	Building Condition Category	Capacity	Number on Roll (Jan 2023)	Surplus Capacity
Black Lane CP School	English Medium	B	140	130	10
Ysgol Tanyfron	English Medium	B	140	129	11
Brynteg CP	English Medium	B	175	159	16
Ysgol Penrhyn	English Medium	B	210	195	15
Ysgol Heulfan	English Medium	C	294	261	33
Ysgol Penygelli	English Medium	B	315	258	57

The nearest English-medium primary schools to the new school site are currently oversubscribed once the 10% surplus capacity recommendation is applied. This should be alleviated if an increase in capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School is implemented.

Black Lane CP School

Year	(Total F/T)Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019 (Jan)	138	2
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	128	12
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	129	11
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	132	8
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	130	10

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024(Jan)	130	10
2025 2024/2025(Jan)	119	21
2026 2025/2026(Jan)	116	24
2027 2026/2027(Jan)	123	17
2028 2027/2028(Jan)	119	21

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Ysgol Tanyfron

Year	Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019(Jan)	130	10
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	132	8
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	127	13
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	130	10
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	129	11

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024(Jan)	127	13
2025 2024/2025(Jan)	121	19
2026 2025/2026(Jan)	122	18
2027 2026/2027(Jan)	119	21
2028 2027/2028(Jan)	119	21

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Brynteg CP

Year	Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019(Jan)	171	4
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	165	10
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	163	12
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	167	8
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	159	16

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024(Jan)	158	17
2025 2024/2025(Jan)	145	30
2026 2025/2026(Jan)	144	31
2027 2026/2027(Jan)	140	35
2028 2027/2028(Jan)	137	38

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Ysgol Penrhyn

Year	Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019(Jan)	178	32
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	174	36
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	183	27
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	196	14
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	195	15

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024 (Jan)	189	21
2025 2024/2025 (Jan)	181	29
2026 2025/2026 (Jan)	178	32
2027 2026/2027 (Jan)	180	30
2028 2027/2028 (Jan)	176	34

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Ysgol Heulfan

Year	Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019(Jan)	302	-8
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	296	-2
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	273	21
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	272	22
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	261	33

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024 (Jan)	263	31
2025 2024/2025 (Jan)	258	36
2026 2025/2026 (Jan)	256	38
2027 2026/2027 (Jan)	255	39
2028 2027/2028 (Jan)	257	37

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Pengelli CP

Year	Number of Pupils on Roll*	Surplus
2019 2018/2019(Jan)	284	31
2020 2019/2020(Jan)	281	34
2021 2020/2021(Jan)	285	30
2022 2021/2022(Jan)	263	52
2023 2022/2023(Jan)	258	57

*Please note the above pupil data does not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Source – Plasc. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Year	Pupil Projections*	Surplus
2024 2023/2024 (Jan)	245	70
2025 2024/2025 (Jan)	224	91
2026 2025/2026 (Jan)	220	95
2027 2026/2027 (Jan)	211	104
2028 2027/2028 (Jan)	199	116

*Please note that pupil projections do not take into account pupils in RP or nursery pupils. Nursery pupil numbers and numbers of pupils in SEN units should not be included

Impact on Faith Provision

The next nearest Faith provision school to St Mary's CIW VA School is Minera CIW VA School.

Primary School	Language Medium	Building Condition Category	Capacity	Number on Roll (Jan 2023)	Surplus Capacity
Minera CIW VA School	English Medium	B	119	86	33

A review of the home location of pupils attending Minera primary school shows that most pupils living near to Minera primary school attend Minera primary school. A review of the home location of pupils attending St. Mary's primary school in Brymbo shows that most pupils living near to St. Mary's primary school in Brymbo attend St. Mary's primary school in Brymbo. Overall, it is believed that there will be a positive impact on the faith provision provided in Wrexham as there will be more places available in a Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School.

Impact on Welsh-Medium Provision

The proposal neither enhances nor impacts negatively on Welsh-medium provision as the school affected is an English-medium faith provision school.

Impact on Nursery Provision

Nursery provision would be increased in line with the new published admission number for St Mary's CIW VA School. This enables more children to be educated in faith nursery provision.

This proposal would mean an increase to (210) 30 part time nursery pupil places (315) 45 part time nursery pupil places available each year.

School Name	Nursery Places Available Currently	Nursery Places Available after Proposal
All Saints CIW VA School, Gresford	45	45
Bronington CIW VA School	17	17
Madras CIW VA School	17	17
Minera CIW VA School	17	17
St Chad's CIW VA School	13	13
St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo	22	30/45
St Mary's CIW VA School, Overton	30	30
St Mary's CIW VA School, Ruabon	24	24
St Paul's CIW VA School	7	7

Impact on Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

There will be little or no impact on pupils with additional learning needs. The current resource provision unit located within St Mary's CIW VA School Brymbo would remain and would be accommodated for when designing and building the new school. Once the new school has been built, it is anticipated that the improved facilities will directly enhance teaching and learning for all learners, including those accessing the resource provision unit.

Impact on Pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

There will be little or no impact on pupils with English as an additional language. The current resources deployed to schools in the form of the EAL support team would continue to be available to eligible pupils both in the current school and the new school once complete.

Impact on Admissions

St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo are their own admission authority and applications for admission will continue to be assessed in accordance with the school's admission policy.

This proposal will not impact on current policy and admission to the school will continue to be made in accordance with parental preference, subject to availability. If the school becomes oversubscribed, preference requests will still be considered but the school's oversubscription criteria will be applied to determine priority.

The School Admission Policy and Oversubscription Criteria can be found on: [Voluntary Aided/Foundation School Admissions Policies | Wrexham County Borough Council](#)

The Council's Admission Policy and Oversubscription Criteria can be found on: [School Admissions | Wrexham County Borough Council](#)

Impact on School Transport

In line with the Council's school transport policy, free transport is provided to all primary school aged pupils who live two miles or more from their nearest English-medium, Welsh-medium or faith provision primary school. This proposal will not impact on this arrangement and new walking routes will be mapped upon completion of the new school.

The proposal means that more children would have the opportunity to be allocated a place in a faith school closer to their home address which would have a positive effect on transport.

Impact on Staff and Staffing

There should be no direct impact on teachers or support staff as a result of this proposal.

It is intended that the growth of the school is controlled by admitting (210) 30 or (315) 45 into Nursery and Reception each year. This will allow the school adequate time to recruit and revise how they deliver their class structure.

Staff views will be considered as part of the consultation process.

Impact Assessments

The following Impact Assessments were initially conducted in June 2023 and the below summaries have been realised. Impact Assessments are working documents and may be updated throughout the statutory process. Feedback received from consultees during the consultation period will be used to inform the impact assessments.

Equality Impact Assessment

Initially, it was found that there would be a positive impact for the reasons outlined herein.

Community Impact Assessment

Initially, it was found that the proposal would have a positive impact on the community as a new school would help to meet future predicted demand for school places in the area. The community would also benefit from a new, eco-friendly and modern space which could be utilised for various community based and community led activities.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Initially, it was found that there would neither be a positive nor a negative impact on the Welsh language as a result of the proposal.

Transport Impact Assessment

Initially, it was found the proposal to increase the capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School is feasible and any additional school traffic caused by an increase in capacity will be mitigated by providing improved parking facilities at the new site.

The transport impact assessment for the current site will be positive as there will be a reduction in traffic when the school relocates to the new site. The new site will be on a new road infrastructure and car parking facilities will be considered during the development of the site.

Wellbeing of Future Generations Impact Assessment

Initially, it was found that there would be a positive impact on the wellbeing of future generations for the reasons outlined herein.

Finance-Costs and Funding

The 2023-24 revenue delegated budget for St Mary's VA CIW School is £730,163. Excluding the Resourced Provision (for which the pupil unit cost would be higher than the average due to the ratios of staff to pupil), the budget is £585,944. This calculates as an average cost per pupil of £4,803 as the value funded through Wrexham's funding formula for Primary Schools.

Assuming all places were filled, an increase in capacity would generate a budget slightly in excess of £773,000 over time. This figure excludes inflation, which would normally be expected to be included in schools' budgets, though this would depend on overall budget pressures for the authority in future years.

Wrexham's funding formula is based on the number of pupils on roll on each school's January pupil census return, prior to the start of each financial year. If any of the additional pupils for the new school at Brymbo were to transfer from other Wrexham Primary schools, the funding for those pupils would already be in the system. The school at which any pupils were educated previously, would not continue to have the funding for them, so the funding would transfer to the new school.

Any budget increase required would be funded gradually each year from additional budget allocated into the authority's overall school delegated budget resulting from additional pressures arising from population increases. We would expect to realise significant energy efficiency savings for the school as a results of energy and carbon reduction.

Project Budget

The project will be delivered on the basis of the following match funding which has been secured

- 15% Parochial Trust
- 85% Welsh Government through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme

Quality and Standards in Education

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

Estyn

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.

When proposing changes to this type of 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.

The last Estyn inspection to take place at St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo was in 2018. The inspection judgements awarded for St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo following inspection are shown in the table below:

Inspection Area	Inspection Judgement
Standards/Learning	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning	Adequate and needs improvement
Teaching and Learning Experiences	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, Support and Guidance	Adequate and needs improvement
Leadership and Management	Adequate and needs improvement

Following the inspection in October 2018, Estyn evaluated the school's progress during a monitoring visit in March 2020. After this visit, it was judged that the school had made good

progress in respect of the recommendations given and therefore was subsequently removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring.

For further information on the inspection and monitoring visit, please follow the link below to the Estyn website. Links have also been provided to the inspection reports of other Faith schools in the Wrexham area.

[All Saints CIW VA School](#)

[Bronington CIW VA School](#)

[Madras CIW VA School](#)

[Minera CIW VA School](#)

[St Chad's CIW VA School](#)

[St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo](#)

[St Mary's CIW VA School, Overton](#)

[St Mary's CIW VA School, Ruabon](#)

[St Paul's CIW VA School](#)

Impact of the Proposal on the Quality and Standard of Education

If the proposal is implemented, it is the view of the Council that the new school would 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 build upon the current standard with a view to strengthening and improving educational provision leading to greater pupil engagement and enjoyment in learning and a positive impact on pupil well-being.

What Happens Next?

The 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. In addition, the notice will be displayed at the entrance to the school. 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 9th April 2024. **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 29th April 2024. If any objections are raised during this 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 StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk or writing to St Mary's CIW VA School Brymbo Consultation, Education, Crown Buildings, 31 Chester Street, Wrexham, LL13 8BG.

Determination of Proposals

The results of the statutory notice will be taken before the Executive Board in September 2024 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 any 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.