

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity to 116 to 220

May 2022

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn’s capacity from 116 to 220

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Introduction- Explanation of the Consultation Proposal

This consultation is an opportunity for the local and wider community to learn about the proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220. The school would move into a brand new purpose built facility in the town of Denbigh to accommodate the increase.

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

To request a hard copy of the consultation document please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

The consultation period commences on **17th May 2022** and ends on **27th June 2022**.

The Consultation

This consultation proposal has been produced containing information set out in the Welsh Government Guidance and sets out the information people will need to participate in the consultation process.

The Local Authority wish to seek the views of all those with a likely interest in any change to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn. It is important that all views can be taken into account before a decision is made.

A supplementary version of this formal consultation proposal has been produced for and made available to children and young people who are likely to be affected by the current proposal. The supplementary version has been written specifically to enable children and young people to understand better and engage with the formal consultation.

The Consultation Process

The consultation process will follow the guidelines outlined by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2018).

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Who will be consulted?

This document will be sent to the following:

All staff- teaching and ancillary- Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	Welsh Ministers
Parents/ Guardians and Governors at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	Assembly Member (AM)/ Regional Members/ Members of Parliament (MP)
All schools within Denbighshire- headteachers and Chairs of Governors	SEN Partners
All North Wales Local Authorities	Estyn
The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority	All relevant unions
Regional Education Consortium	Police and Crime Commissioner
Local Communities First Partnership	Relevant Health bodies with an interest
Denbigh Town Council	All Councillors

Consultation Period

The consultation period for this proposal starts on **17th May 2022** and ends on **27th June 2022**.

The consultation document will be published on the Denbighshire County Council website at: <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680>

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Considering your views:

You can respond to this consultation by completing the response form- Appendix A.

Please address all responses to:

Email- modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Post- Modernising Education, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ

NOTE- All responses must arrive no later than midnight on **Monday 27th June 2022**.

Due to the volume of responses that are received 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 however will be considered and responded to via the publication of a post consultation report.

Meetings

We will also hold information sessions for parents and any other interested parties during the consultation period. These will be 10 minute sessions which will be arranged by appointment only and will be held online via Zoom or Teams or alternatively via telephone conference.

At these sessions you will be able to talk to representatives of the school and Denbighshire County Council who will be available to answer your questions. They will be held on **Tuesday 24th May between 4-7pm**- Please email modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk to book an appointment.

Consultation with Children and Young people

There will be an opportunity for the pupils at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn to participate in the consultation process during a session which will be conducted at the school.

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Timetable

	Date
Formal Consultation period	May/ June 22
Cabinet- to agree to publish Statutory Notice	September 22
Statutory Notice Period	October 22
Cabinet- Objection report- decision determined	November 22
Submit Full Business Case to Welsh Government	November 22
Construction- subject to all approvals	Feb 23- Sept 24
Implementation of the Proposal	September 2024

School (s) affected by this proposal

School Name: Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn

School Location: 4 locations in Denbigh:

Primary Site- LL16 3DP

Secondary site- LL16 3DR

Ty'r Ysgol- LL16 4ST

Residential- Gerddi Glasfryn, LL116 4ST

County: Denbighshire

Age Range: 3-19

School Category (Community, Voluntary Aided, Voluntary Controlled, Special):
Special School

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Number of pupils on roll:

Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Jan 2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2017
137	137	133	140	128

Pupil Projections: Jan 2023- Jan 2027- N/A

Capacity: 116

Cost per pupil (2021-22): £23,957

School Budget (2021-22) : £3.3m

Estyn Inspection Result: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6637010>

School Categorisation (2019) : Yellow

Building Condition Category: Primary- B

Secondary- B

Ty'r Ysgol- B

Estyn Inspections

The most recent Estyn inspection for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn took place in July 2016.

The full report can be accessed online at:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6637010>

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer 3 key questions:

How good are the outcomes?

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How good is provision?

How good are leadership and management?

In these evaluations there is a 4 point scale:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector- leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths

The inspection judgements for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn are shown below:

Inspection Area	Judgement
1. How good are the outcomes?	Good
2. How good is provision?	Good
3. How good are leadership and management?	Good

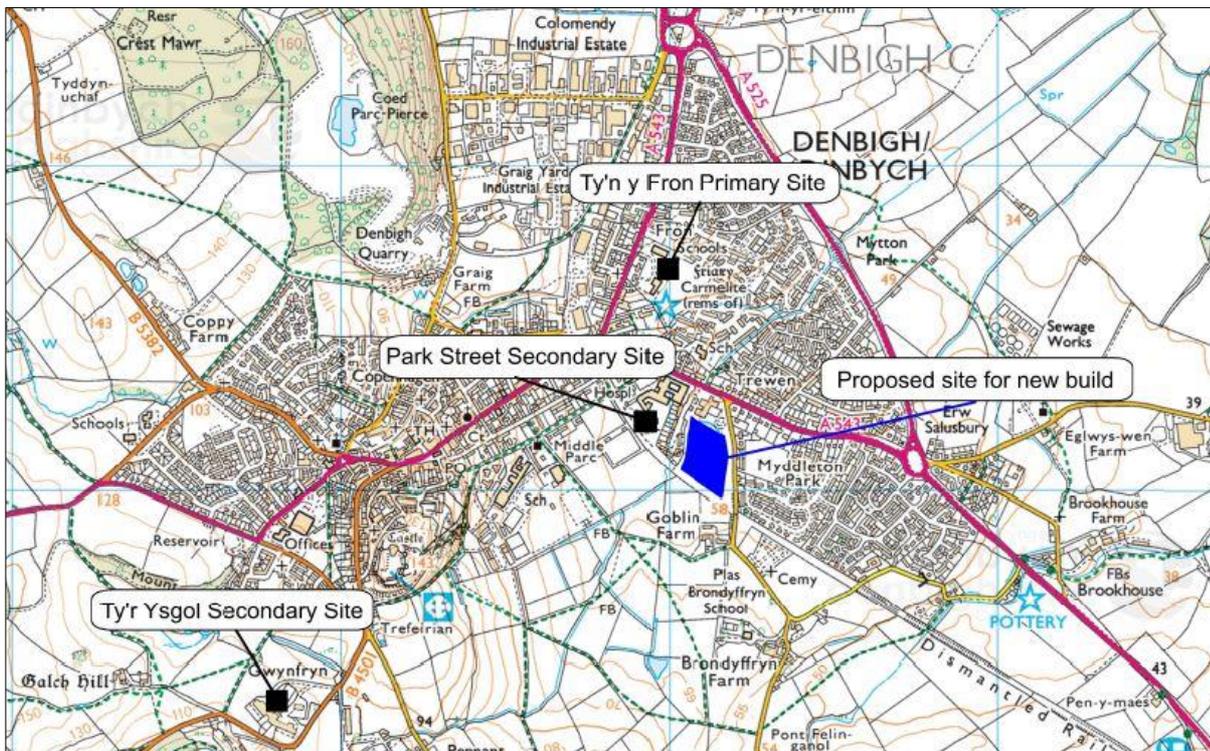
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The Proposal- Why are we proposing the changes?

The proposal is to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from 116 to 220. The school would move into a brand new purpose built facility in the town of Denbigh to accommodate the increase.

This proposal does not include the residential provision- Gerddi Glasfryn. This provision will still be accessible to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn pupils.

The proposed site is on an existing sports field located along Ystrad Road, Denbigh, adjacent to Denbigh Leisure Centre.



The site is in the ownership of Denbighshire County Council and its currently part of the Denbigh High site. Discussions will take place in parallel with this project with Denbigh

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High regarding the implications for the school for this change of use. This is also subject to planning permission.

Background

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is a Local Authority maintained co-educational special school for pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and associated learning difficulties from the age of 3 to 19. Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn was initially established as a provision based at Plas Brondyffryn Hall, a 19th century property in Denbigh. Increased demand for provision in the early 2000's saw the school leave this facility and establish bases adjoining Ysgol Frongoch and Denbigh High for primary and secondary provision. To support this the Council entered into a long lease for the Gwynfryn site with the Welsh Government, formerly part of the North Wales Hospital Site for residential and high end need provision.

All pupils admitted to the school have a Statement of Special Educational Need indicating autism as the prime need. The school has always been seen as a provision which caters for pupils from across Denbighshire and beyond with pupils from Flintshire, Wrexham and Gwynedd receiving education from the provision.

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is currently located in Denbigh over 4 sites- the primary offer is at Ty'n Fron, secondary at Park Street, the more complex need pupils at Ty'r Ysgol and the residential provision at Gerddi Glasfryn.

Pupils and staff from each site rarely come together and these sites operate individually.

Capacity at a special school is always difficult to determine as it depends on pupil needs, which can vary greatly. The nominal capacity at the school is 116, the school currently has 136 pupils on roll (September 2021 numbers).

As the table below shows the school have been over capacity for the last 6 years:

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Year	Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20	Jan 21
Pupil Numbers	124	128	140	133	137	137

The school currently have 10 pupils on a waiting list, with a possible further 10 that will need to access a place at the school very soon.

The Covid pandemic has impacted on the number of assessments that have been undertaken. Currently there are 63 pupils awaiting assessments. Based on previous trends this would take the number of pupils eligible to attend the school close to 180 pupils.

The impact of the pandemic is yet to be fully realised, however the Local Authority believe that demand for these types of places will increase over the next few years and therefore the 220 proposed capacity in the new building, which will open late 2024, is reasonable.

Rationale for Change

The aim of this project, as well as to increase the schools capacity, is to bring all learners and staff on one site in a new purpose built facility.

This proposal will see a new building erected on the playing fields at Denbigh High School- subject to planning and funding approval. This will allow for the existing sites to be vacated and allow all learners to be based on a single site rather than the three currently utilised.

The new facility will create an improved, high quality, flexible learning environment to enable the school to deliver the changing curriculum requirements to meet the needs of the pupils and help them to reach their full potential. The project will improve the overall financial stability for the school in regards to all pupils on the same site rather than 3 separate ones. As stated the proposal does not include the residential provision- Gerddi Glasfryn. This provision will still be accessible to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn pupils.

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The project will create the opportunity to develop excellent purpose built facilities which will improve the educational experience of children at the school. The project will also explore Post 16 delivery and what facilities these could bring to the pupils and the wider community e.g. a café.

The new school will have the following benefits:

- Increase places available for pupils in the area with ASC;
- 21st Century school facilities to meet the needs of children with ASC;
- Better learning environment and facilities such as sensory rooms, specialist therapy rooms etc.
- More space and better play provision;
- Better provision for teaching young people life and vocational skills;
- Remove the requirement for staff and pupils to move between sites.

Evaluation of Present Arrangements

Currently the school is over 4 sites:

- Primary department- opened in September 2006 and caters for pupils age 3 to 11,
- Secondary department- opened in November 2004, and caters for pupils aged 11 to 19,
- Ty'r Ysgol- Secondary pupils and post-16 pupils with more complex needs.
- Gerddi Glasfryn- Residential provision- this is not part of this proposal- pupils from the school will still be able to access this provision.

Primary

Currently the primary site of the school is located in Denbigh next to Ysgol Frongoch primary school. A 2020 Condition survey states that this site is classed as a B- Satisfactory. Overall the site is in satisfactory condition, however there are areas that require attention to upgrade or improve.

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There are a number of issues with the site- this includes some classrooms being too small for the number of pupils in them. Due to the increase in pupil numbers the computer room is now a classroom and there are few resource rooms for pupils to utilise. There are no breakout areas for pupils who require a more individual approach or may require short periods of time away from the full group.

In many of the classrooms there are distractions- clutter due to the lack of storage and sinks which are visible. There is only 1 de-escalation room which does not have an assistance alarm fitted. The soft play room is very important to the school however it is now too small for their requirements.

The school shares the canteen / hall with Ysgol Frongoch. This hall is used for PE and dining. Due to the layout and the acoustics of the hall, even before the Covid pandemic, few pupils felt comfortable enough to eat in here and many pupils eat lunch in their classrooms. The sharing of this facility also means that pupils at the school have the later timeslot to eat- this is around 1 o'clock. Given that many pupils travel to the school on school transport and therefore leave their homes early, this timeslot is far from ideal.

In terms of using the hall for PE pupils do not enjoy this space- as well as the poor acoustics there is also a big column in the middle of the hall which can make certain games problematic.

Externally there is a lack of shelters outside to protect from rain and sun. A number of foundation phase classrooms do have direct access to the external area, however the external space is very limited and not ideal.

Secondary

The secondary section of the school is located next to Denbigh High school. A 2020 Condition survey states that this site is classed as a B- Satisfactory. Overall the site is in a good condition with no major defects.

Due to the increase in pupil numbers a number of rooms have had to change their use:

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- The inclusion classroom where pupils would do work on wellbeing and small group work around intervention has been turned into a classroom,
- DT/Music room has previously been converted into a classroom - it is currently a music room but also a dining room,
- Sixth form common room now a classroom,
- The sensory room is used as a small teaching room instead of a break out area,
- IT room was used for assemblies before the pandemic- and the tables had to be cleared from the room and pupils carry their own chairs in- this was also becoming too crowded given the pupil numbers.

There is limited space for meetings with parents and multidisciplinary meetings. One sixth form classroom is now based next door at Denbigh High- which impacts on pupil feeling of belonging.

The increase in pupil numbers has meant that the courtyard is too small for all pupils to have breaks together. As a result the timetable has had to be amended and dinner time negotiated with Denbigh High so groups can be split into 3 sessions. Pupils share the canteen with Denbigh High and often have the later lunch slot.

The courtyard does not have enough play equipment for the number of pupils.

The building is not flexible enough to accommodate the change in the complexity of pupils needs and the lack of breakout spaces mean it is difficult to change and adapt the curriculum to provide individual timetables. Life skills are taught at the residential flats at Gerddi Galsfryn which is away from the secondary school site and pupils have to be transported there.

More Complex needs

The other site that the school is also located on is called Ty'r Ysgol and is used for secondary and post 16 pupils with more complex needs. A 2020 Condition survey states that this site is classed as a B- Satisfactory. Overall the site is in satisfactory condition, however there are areas that require attention to upgrade or improve.

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This building has similar issues to the other school sites with no breakout areas and corridors currently used as sensory spaces. Once again there are limited spaces for small group or 1:1 works. There is no dining area and pupils have to eat in the classrooms.

The main advantage of this site are the vast external areas which include a forest school which is utilised by all pupils from all sites at the school.

Impact of the proposal on the quality and standards of education

Due to the wide range of pupil's special educational needs it is not appropriate to compare the standards that pupil achieve at the school with national averages.

It is the view of the Local Authority that should this proposal be implemented it would at least maintain the current standard and quality of education. The new building will be equipped to provide all pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum from foundation phase to post-16.

Bringing together all pupils and staff into a provision that is purpose built for their needs can only have a positive influence on pupil wellbeing and attitude to learning.

Impact of the proposal on teaching and learning experiences

The purpose of the school is to identify the learning strengths and areas for development of each pupil in order to provide individual education plans to promote and enhance academic, personal and social potential in line with the 4 purposes of Curriculum for Wales.

The 6th Form offers pupils the opportunity to develop the social skills and independence they need in order to thrive in whatever setting they choose to go to when they leave the school.

The proposed new building will have a community cafe which will enhance pupil learning around a number of key curriculum areas and will be a valuable learning experience.

One of the main concerns currently on each site is the dining arrangements that pupils currently have- either sharing facilities with others or eating in the classrooms. The new

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building will have dedicated primary and secondary dining areas and will give pupils flexibility to eat within a group or on their own. The dining experience will be well thought out and will ensure that the majority of students will engage positively. For children with autism sharing a meal with peers can present very significant difficulties in relation to skills, confidence and communication so it is particularly important to get this aspect of provision right and create an environment where children can develop the skills needed to join this most basic of positive social activities.

Impact of the proposal on care, support and guidance

Currently pupils are fully supported in the learning process at all key stages by Teaching Assistants who support individual social/emotional needs through 1:1 work and study skills as well as clubs and creative lunchtime sessions for target groups. Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) work within all subject areas planning work with subject leaders to identify pupils requiring additional support. Speech and Language Therapists (SALT) provide individual and group programmes which are delivered by both SALT Assistants and class based staff.

The Inclusion Team, comprising of SALT assistants and behaviour and sensory support workers, also support our pupils to access the curriculum by identifying barriers to learning and putting bespoke plans in to support the pupils.

The proposal will ensure that when these specialists come into the school they have small group rooms and areas where they can work effectively and comfortably with the learners. By bringing all staff onto one site the Local Authority see the benefits for the staff personally in terms of support, guidance and development as well as the benefits for learners as they move through the school in a familiar environment therefore ensuring a smoother transition from each key stage.

Impact of the proposal on leadership and management

Bringing together the whole school on to one site will allow the skills and expertise of management to be applied where and when they are needed and therefore allow the line

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management of essential services, teams and therapeutic interventions to be finely tuned and effective. It will also mean that the current duplication which is required to ensure provision on multiple sites can be eliminated. The new provision will also allow for more effective multi-disciplinary working and management of these teams to meet the specific needs of individual pupils and groups of pupils, as all services and therapies will be available on the one site and can be accessed when they are needed.

Transition between stages of education has been shown to be of particular importance, and this can be strengthened by merging sites. The proposed merger would make it easier to share the good practice from each of the existing sites, and help staff work as one team across the whole age range, providing the best care and education for students.

The key challenge facing all school organisations is to develop a climate that ensures the delivery of continuously improving high quality education. Leadership is the most influential factor in shaping organisational culture and so ensuring the necessary leadership behaviours, strategies and qualities are developed is fundamental. Working on one site makes this much easier and enables staff to work in partnership more effectively.

Impact of the Proposal

This proposal will ensure that the new school build will meet the needs of the learners and that Denbighshire have enough pupil places such as this for the future.

Currently the demand for these types of places cannot be met and pupils have to stay in their current school or are out of education.

Pupils join the school at different points in their education journey, dependent upon a number of factors unique to each pupil, their need and their situation. As the numbers below demonstrate the age profile of the pupils is not level across the whole school.

Current pupil numbers by Year are below- (NOR Sept 2021):

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Nursery	Rec	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6	Yr 7	Yr 8
0	1	2	5	8	6	2	9	20	11

Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 14
21	15	11	11	10	4

For the first time in September 2021, 7 pupils have been unable to move from the primary site in Year 6 to the secondary site in year 7 due to lack of space in the secondary site. For September 2022 this situation will continue with 3 pupils who should move to the Ty'r Ysgol site having to remain in the primary section due to lack of space. The Year 7s currently in the primary site will move to the secondary site, however the new intake of Year 7s- pupils coming to the school for the first time will have to attend the primary site- currently there are 6 pupils confirmed.

Outside of the higher needs provision, the school is structured as an all-through special school. Some pupils will begin their journey in the foundation phase and progress up through primary, into secondary, post 16 and beyond. Others will join at different steps in their life journey, typically as a mainstream school is considered to no longer best meet their need.

Transition is always particularly difficult for pupils with additional learning needs and the all-through nature of this school in one building will allow for a softening of this transition brought about by familiarity of surroundings, systems, and policies.

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Transport costs

Transport arrangements will continue to be made in accordance with the County Council's home to school transport policy.

Transitional arrangements

Pupils will remain at the existing school sites until the new build is ready for occupation.

As the build progresses pupils will be invited to visit the site at appropriate times with staff.

Entering a new situation (e.g. a new classroom and a new teacher) can be a stressful time for any pupil, but for pupils with ASC, the lack of control over change and the concept of moving to a new situation with new people and routines can be especially threatening. We will work closely with the school to manage the transition to the new build in such a way that we alleviate any stress. The school will lead on this to ensure pupils are well prepared to move into the new building.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Proposal

Advantages:

- Increase capacity of the school,
- Tailor to the school's needs- autism friendly features- facilities fit for 21st Century learning,
- All pupils and staff on the same site,
- Transition of pupils through the key stages much easier on one site,
- Subject specific rooms e.g. science lab,
- Enterprise opportunities that a new build will allow,
- Transport all coming to one site,
- Proposed site is in DCC ownership,
- Construction works would take place away from all current school sites, therefore minimal disruption to pupils learning.

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Disadvantages:

- Increase in traffic on site as all transport to one site,
- Play area for all- will it be too noisy?
- School organisation consultation would be needed in regards to increase in capacity and change of location,
- Approval of business case from Welsh Government for 75% grant funding to build the new school required.

Risks

Risk	Mitigation
1. Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement the proposal.	The Local Authority will work closely with the school and the Governors to ensure everyone is supportive of the proposal therefore if anyone does have any concerns this can be addressed in a positive manner. The Local Authority will follow the guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2018.
2. Demand for provision diminishes.	This is unlikely as the demand for places outweigh the number of places currently available.

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3. Integration of pupils into the new school building.	The Local Authority will work closely with the successful building contractor in ensuring there is a smooth transition and integration into the new build for both pupils and staff,
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WESP

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (the ALNET Act 2018) was introduced in January 2018 and has been implemented from September 2021. The ALNET Act 2018 requires LAs to keep the arrangements for supporting learners between the ages of 0 to 25 with ALN under review and consider whether these arrangements are sufficient. It includes a statutory requirement to take reasonable steps to create a Welsh medium and bilingual system of support for learners with ALN.

The school are committed to promoting the Welsh language as an integrated part of school life. The majority of the pupils come from homes where English is the first language; however the school promotes an ethos where Welsh culture and heritage is supported and celebrated. A proportion of the staff are first language Welsh speakers and therefore Welsh is used as a language of communication throughout the school.

Governors and SLT are committed to developing the Welsh language skills of all the staff and provide training to achieve this. Welsh is not used as a language of instruction in any Key Stage or subject, but the school welcomes pupils whose first language is Welsh and provides the necessary resources for them to access the whole curriculum through the medium of Welsh.

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Financial implications- Revenue

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is funded in accordance with Denbighshire County Council's funding formulas and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new schools pupil numbers and facilities.

The 2022-23 revenue delegated budget for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn is £3,491,922 and the school's budget share per full time equivalent pupil is £26,059.

The following table states the ESTIMATED revenue delegated budget would be from 2024/25, based on the School Budget Formula for Special schools delegated budgets. Numbers have been based on a steady increase in pupils on roll- 20 each year with 20% of these coming from Out of County placements:

	Budget
Year 1	£3,966,456
Year 2	£4,302,870
Year 3	£4,639,284
Year 4	£4,975,698
Year 5	£5,312,112

The Local Authority will work closely with the school and Denbighshire's Schools Budget forum to ensure cost pressures are met and do not significantly impact on other schools.

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Finance of the new school building

This is a project within Band B of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning programme, previously 21st Century Schools and College programme.

Commitment to this proposal was outlined in a revised Strategic Outline programme, which was approved by Welsh Government in September 2020. The programme included an overall allocation of £23.8m for this project.

As this project is for a special school Welsh Government, subject to the approval of the relevant Business Cases, will provide 75% of the funding with the remaining 25% to be provided by Denbighshire County Council as per the Corporate Plan commitments. The Strategic Outline Case (SOC) was submitted to the Welsh Government at the end of April 2022.

The project will utilise existing land and therefore no capital receipt will be realised.

Admission arrangements

Admission to the school is via the Admissions Panel which meets 6 times a year and consists of representatives of the 6 North Wales local authorities. All pupils admitted to the school have a Statement of Special Educational Need indicating autism as the prime need.

Alternative options considered

Option 1- Do nothing- Maintain the status quo- no additional investment required and no school organisation proposal needed, however the school would remain over 4 sites and the waiting list for places at the school will continue to increase.

Option 2- Do minimum- Clear the maintenance backlog at each site- relatively cheap option, however the school would remain over 4 sites and the waiting list for places at the school will continue to increase.

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Option 3- Intermediate- Undertake Refurbishment works to increase capacity to 220- this looked at refurbishing the Park Lane site and utilising areas of Denbigh High to move all Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn students and staff onto the one site. This option was slightly cheaper than the preferred option and would increase the amount of pupil places. This option would bring all staff and pupils together on one site, however the design of the space may not fit in with what the school needs. The main concern was how the refurbishment could occur with pupils from Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and Denbigh High on the site- there would be considerable disruption to the delivery of education to a large number of pupils in both settings.

Option 4- Preferred option- Provide a new facility to increase the capacity to 220 on a new site in Denbigh. This option is the most expensive, however it will meet the demand for places in the area and the building will be fit for 21st Century learning. The proposed site is already in the Local Authorities ownership and is still in the town of Denbigh, therefore travel times for pupils will not be significantly different. This will bring all pupils and staff together on one site. Pupils will be able to remain at their current site whilst the building works are ongoing therefore their education will not be disrupted in any way.

Transport impact assessment

Transport will be provided in accordance with the requirements of a Statement of Special Educational Needs issued by the Authority or where a pupil/learner is the subject of the statutory assessment procedure where they have learning difficulties which the Local Authority considers makes transport 'necessary'. Assessments will be subject to regular review. The type and nature of transport provided will be determined by a Risk Assessment.

How the proposal will affect staff

Due to the current demand for places we believe that the school will face an increase in the numbers of pupils when the new build opens in late 2024. The school will need more staff as a result but we believe there is sufficient time to plan for these changes working with HR to ensure the school will be ready to provide the necessary resources required.

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Capital receipts

There will be no capital receipts from this proposal as the current sites share with other facilities. Options for the re-use of the sites will be considered further including the use of the secondary provision at Park Street by their neighbours Denbigh High.

Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language

As set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, it is a requirement to publish a Community, Equality and Welsh language impact assessment. The full assessment can be found in Appendix 2.

The main positives emerging from the impact assessment are on the educational provision- providing an improved education offer represents an opportunity to strengthen Welsh education in the area and as a result strengthen the Welsh language.

Equality

As set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, it is a requirement to publish a Community, Equality and Welsh language impact assessment. This can be found on the website at <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680>

Overall the impact from the equality impact assessment is positive. There are a number of impact considerations which the proposal has no impact on due to the school being classified as a Special school.

The main positives from the assessment are the increases in the number of pupil places that the proposal will bring for this type of specialised provision. It will allow all staff and pupils to come together on one site and it will also be a facility the community can access out of hours.

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220

Impact on the community

As set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, it is a requirement to publish a Community, Equality and Welsh language impact assessment. The full assessment can be found: <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680>

Overall, the proposal will have a positive impact on pupils, parents/carers and their families. The increase proposed has considered impact on the local community, along with the demand for places.

The school have an aspiration for the new building to be accessible to the community out of hours and they will need to identify any gaps they could potentially fill in terms of the offer in the town.

Throughout the consultation period if there are any justified impacts noted the impact assessment will be reviewed and measures will be considered so that any impact is minimised.

Sustainability

This proposal will improve sustainability of education provision in regards to these types of specialist places in the County.

The current situation at the school with its limiting capacity means pupils that need this provision cannot access it. As mentioned the impact of the pandemic is already being felt with delayed assessments, however as a Local Authority we believe that this increase in capacity in a flexible building will ensure the sustainability of the school in the years to come.

Next steps - How to make your views known

There are several ways in which you can share your views with us. Attached to this consultation proposal is a consultation response form. This can be completed and returned to us at the addresses below.

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You may submit comments to us via email. The email address for this correspondence is:

modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Access and submit the response form online at:

<https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680>

Letters of response should be sent to: Modernising Education, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ

All responses must be received no later than Monday 27th June 2022.

Comments will not be counted as objections at this stage.

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 Local Authority will publish a consultation report which will:

- Summarise each of the issues raised by consultees;
- Respond by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.
- Set out Estyn's view of the overall merits of the proposal as set out in their consultation response.

The consultation report may also make recommendations – for example, if the Local Authority should proceed i.e. to publish the proposals as consulted on with any appropriate amendments, to abandon the proposals and retain the status quo or to review the proposals and make significant changes and re consult.

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The Local Authority 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 Denbighshire County council's website, in addition the notice will be displayed at the entrance of the school. 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 011/2018.

Following the end of this consultation the Local Authority will publish a report on the consultation which will be available on the Council's website.

The report will be presented to Cabinet in September 2022.

If the recommendation is accepted then a Statutory Notice will be issued and a 28 day objection period will begin. A report will be published on the views expressed during the objection period, and will be available on the Council's website.

Consultation period

This consultation period will run from **17th May 2022** to **27th June 2022**.

Responses received during this period WILL NOT be counted as objections. Further responses will need to be submitted during the 'Statutory Notice' published timescale (subject to the publication of Statutory Notices) if consultees would like to submit an objection to the proposals.

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220

Publication of statutory notices

This is subject to the approval of a Post Consultation Report due to be presented to Cabinet in September 2022.

Determination of proposals

Should the Local Authority proceed with the publication of the Statutory Notice the results of the Statutory Notice period will be presented to the Local Authority in November 2022. The local authority will then assess the consultation process and determine whether to implement the proposal.

Decision notification

Subject to any proposal being progressed a decision notification will be made available to all consultees. This notification will also be published on Denbighshire County Council's website, in addition the notice will be displayed at the entrances of the school as soon as possible following the decision.

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Appendix 1- Formal Consultation Response form

The proposal is to increase the capacity at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn from 116 to 220. The school would move into a brand new purpose built facility in the town of Denbigh to accommodate the increase.

We would like to hear your views regarding the proposal. You can let your views be known in the following ways;

- If you are accessing this document online then please click <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680> to complete the online survey;
- If you have received a hard copy of the consultation proposal please return your response form to Modernising Education, Denbighshire County Council, PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ, no later than **27th June 2022**.
- Visit our website at: <https://countyconversation.denbighshire.gov.uk/project/680> and follow the survey link;
- Alternatively you can scan the attached form and email it to us at modernisingeducation@denbighshire.gov.uk

Please let us have your responses by **27th June 2022**.

Privacy notice:

You can respond to this consultation anonymously, or if you wish to receive updates on the proposals as we progress with them, you will have the option to provide your contact details. Any details you provide with respect to this consultation will only be used by Denbighshire County Council for the purposes of contacting you about this consultation specifically. For more information on how Denbighshire County Council uses your personal data, please visit: www.denbighshire.gov.uk/privacy

Proposal to increase Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn's capacity from 116 to 220

1. Are you in favour of the proposal?
(Please tick one box)

Yes	
No	

2. What is your interest in/ relationship to Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn?

I am a pupil at the school	
I am the parent/ carer of a pupil at the school	
I am a teacher or other member of staff at the school	
I am a local (Denbigh) resident	
I would like to be a pupil at the school, but I go somewhere else at the moment	

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I am the parent/carer of a prospective pupil	
Other	

3. Please provide comments regarding the proposal and any suggestions on alternative proposals which should be considered in the box below:

Your Comments:-

4. Your Details

Name:	
Address	
Email:	
Telephone:	

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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.