



# **Area Schools Review – Consultation Response Form.**

## **St David's High School, Saltney & Saltney Ferry Community Primary School**

**Forms received by 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

**59 English / 0 Welsh**

**1. How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 1. for St David's High School?**

Strongly Agree	15	25.42%
Tend to Agree	14	23.73%
Neither Agree or Disagree	10	16.95%
Tend to Disagree	6	10.17%
Strongly Disagree	14	23.73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**2. How strongly do you agree with the consultation Option 2. for St David's High School and Saltney Ferry Primary School?**

Strongly Agree	5	8.5%
Tend to Agree	8	13.6%
Neither Agree or Disagree	8	13.6%
Tend to Disagree	4	6.8%
Strongly Disagree	34	57.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**3. Please tell us why you feel this way.**

1. Merging of the primary schools in one location.
2. I feel as a parent of 2 children going to Wood Memorial school that merging the 2 schools would put a feeling of outcasts to any pupils that want to attend the High School that are not part of the school already. At the moment all children are in the same boat beginning High school as it is all new to all of them! It does not encourage me to send my children there in fact it would put me off.
3. I believe that my children should have the option of continuing their education at their local high school. As for option 2 I believe that the other primary schools in Saltney will suffer due to a new "super school" being built. It's not their fault that Saltney ferry school received a bad inspection report but they will be the ones to suffer the effects.
4. Leave St David's as it is. Children shouldn't have to move to finish their education. Not all children can cope with change and different schools.
5. We need a small community primary school ,we little ones grow and smaller environment ,plus safety, from older kids, in and being influenced ,especially bad language, save Saltney ferry primary school, I went there n my eldest ,be such a shame to get rid ,for building more houses on !!!!
6. Leave things alone, excellent school already, children & staff happy.. why change and upset the important ones, no six form at St David's will put a lot off the children staying on for further education, is this what your education dept want , I know my daughter who did stayed on at six form would not have stayed on St David's if your new scheme was in place...
7. I would like to ask what is the educational benefit of option 2 and how will it contribute to the well being of the child ? Saltney ferry has just received a poor Estyn inspection yet you are stating that ' we must be innovative in our response to changing local needs. This necessitates much closer links between the different branches of learning so the best resources available – teachers, buildings and equipment - are accessible to all learners of all ages.' How will merging the schools facilitate this? The teachers of Saltney ferry will still be requiring support in order to meet the needs of the children and the recommendations set out from the Estyn report! Or will this be forgotten about with the amalgamation, under a new school name and different leadership structure? I am also concerned for the future of other primary schools in Saltney. Surely with the prospect of a new through school, the two other primary schools will

suffer? This is bound to impact on the number of pupils who attend them both as I am aware that Saltney Ferry's intake is currently much smaller than St Anthony's and Wood Memorial! I can not believe that an amalgamation for a 'super' Saltney primary school has not been considered? And would like to put this forward! Surely this would be a better option for the children, which should be the most important factor !

8. St David's is a warm friendly school with a good ethos. Pupils, who generally, are pleasant, well behaved and well mannered and who want to succeed. With a national falling birth rate keeping smaller secondary schools open, like St David's, could be challenging financially so joining two schools, on the same site will secure the future of both for the local community.
9. Combining the schools would make good use of resources, but having an off-site sixth form may discourage local children from staying on to sixth form.
10. I have concerns with my daughters future educational needs being met and also I am deeply concerned about the amalgamation into one school with a massive age variance.
11. As far as I can see and have been told at the public meeting at school, there is no option for these sixth form pupils. The sixth form is going from Saint David's. This is not consultation just information! My son attends classes at Connah's Quay already, consistently arriving late for lessons due to heavy traffic in the area and losing lesson time due to this travelling. Under this scheme this will only become worse in my opinion as more pupils are bussed in from all over! Concerning the primary pupils, it is impossible to promote this scheme as an advantage because it means that these pupils will not have the trauma or upheaval of moving to the "BIG" school when the majority of new pupils will be coming from Wood Memorial or Broughton primaries.
12. I am just concerned about the future of the current site for Saltney Ferry Primary if a single site is being considered and therefore land is sold.
13. My concerns lie only with the issues of access to this new super school. Access at present to St David's High School is not acceptable and has not been for a long time but nothing has been done, so to suggest that a new super school be built on this site without any thought to residents living in close proximity makes my blood boil. The subsequent rumours about the sale of the land Saltney Ferry Primary School now stands on to Airbus to extend their runway does not in any way shape or form ease my blood pressure. Money talks, sadly, and my concerns are that this is a done deal.
14. The continuity from 3yrs to 16yrs seems a good idea. And the 16yrs to 19yrs in their new centre also makes sense.
15. Primary pupils and secondary pupils should be kept separate, not only are you intending to subject primary pupils to the rudeness and boisterous behaviour of older pupils but you are only concerned about school numbers to make the high school look good on report. I am a former pupil of St David's and know exactly how the pupils behaviour inside and outside the school gates, I am also a mother who would not send my child to your proposed 3-16 I also know that it will take 5 years to complete the new building for the primary, so what happens to Saltney ferry primary your just going to leave the building to wither or your make your proposed plans look silly as you will still be building the new building and the pupils will still attend the existing primary?! This completely defeats the objective And what about St Anthony's and wood memorial primary schools? They are being left out of this plan because of the distance they are from St David's high? Personally I think you should create a super primary school and merge Saltney ferry with St Anthony's and wood memorial, that way they will all have the opportunity to use technology and equipment the secondary school enjoy such as the science labs, art and design, ICT and home economics like cooking class and seeing class. This way no one is left out and all children are treated as equal and no one is at a disadvantage. I totally disagree with the proposed plans for merging Saltney ferry and St David's it's worked well for the many years the school has been open. I also know gcse results have been good, certainly my year saw a lot of a\* grades You should leave well alone why change something that works so well and cost money that could be used elsewhere to improve students learning
16. It will have a detrimental effect on the other primary schools in Saltney

17. the two schools should, and must, be kept separate.....there is no room at St.David's to build a primary school and we would strongly object to any playing fields or farmers fields being used for such a purpose; what's the hidden agenda? what will be built where the old primary school is should this scatterbrain scheme be given the go ahead.....
18. Option 2 is the better option but only if there will be a new on-site school. There is no change, otherwise. How would option 1 be financially viable?
19. Option 2 - I think money should be invested in Saltney Ferry Primary School, so that it can move forward on its own merit.
20. Road links poor for access to St David's, a combined school will result in more traffic. Bus to Connah's Quay hub will take at least 30 minutes each way, not acceptable journey. Saltney Ferry School requires some modernisation, but more feasible option.
21. I would like to know how entry and exit would be for St David's school, as presently St David's Terrace is almost impossible to walk down using the pavement because of cars and larger vehicles parking on walking areas. An increased volume of traffic down this very narrow street would surely cause problems. Also since the change at the exit to St David's Terrace, getting out onto the main road will invariably lead to major problems and increased risk of road traffic accidents. When changes were made to the bus stop opposite the junction we were told that traffic lights would be put there, this has not happened. Now there are not only cars from left to right passing but also the junction opposite and buses stopping to pick up adding total chaos at the junction. How will St David's School and Local residents be reassured that this present problem is not going to be made worse in the light of having two schools in one?
22. Why change something that is working fine? St David's is a high school and should be kept that way. I attended this school as do my children, I currently have 2 children still there and feel change will just disrupt there education.
23. I don't understand why it is Saltney ferry that has been chosen an not any of the primary schools in the area, also the children that will attend a different primary school will be at a disadvantage in more than one way!
24. The 6th form will be great for the older children to interact with students from different schools and giving them confidence to go out into the working world etc. Option 2. This may be an option in future if all surrounding schools are involved, not just Saltney ferry community school. As there is not any funds available to build a new school then the two schools should stay independent. There will be unfair advantage on other schools as they all come under the same council. I live close to two of the schools and a mile away from Saltney ferry school and I choose for my child to attend Saltney ferry as my older son did. My child isn't suffering in school he is ahead for his age. If the funds were available and all schools were included it could be considered. Even merging primary schools together to eliminate under occupied schools could be an option. At this moment in time I think it is best to leave the schools the way they are.
25. I think it should stay as it is or I will seriously be thinking about sending my 2 children to a different high school. As my 2 children will be there this new school is going to be being built at the most crucial time of their education and I think this will have a big effect on Saltney people and residents. Saltney Ferry needs its own primary school. How do you think all of the other children from other schools will feel joining St David's at 11 when the other children have been there since the age of 3. I also strongly disagree with asking children their opinion as you said in one of the meetings. You ask any child would they like to stay in their old building or have a brand new school they with all new equipment I know what the majority will say. I would feel strongly that I don't want my child to be asked that question.
26. The option 2 will not affect my child
27. I am a parent of three children two are current pupils of Saltney Ferry CP and the other was, until she moved to St David's last September. I am also a former governor of Saltney Ferry CP. I do not understand the rush for this amalgamation. I do not believe the links between the two schools are near strong enough that they ought to be. Saltney Ferry CP has always been the main feeder school for St David's yet the links between them only involve the transition of year 6 pupils. These links are no stronger than the links between other feeder schools in the area therefore no

assumption can be made of how well these schools would work together. I would like to suggest that if this amalgamation is a real possibility then we strengthen the links over a period of two years minimum. The heads and staff should work closely during this time sharing visions for the future and maybe combining an action plan. The children should take part in workshops at the high school to enrich their learning. I believe that these links need to be proved before any decisions are made regarding the future of the two schools. If in two years the two schools work well then consultations should be held once again, by this time the links should be visible by all and the funding for a new 'super school' would be more attainable. Also parents and pupils would be more acceptable to change as they'd have an idea of how this would work. Secondly I have great concern Saltney Ferry CP has been regraded as category C for the state of the building. If an amalgamation was to happen with the prospect of building a new school then I fear that our children would be at a severe disadvantage as funding would not be put into a school which was due to be demolished within the near future. I understand the money for children policy that Flintshire currently operates but also know they won't throw 'good money' after bad! Our children need a safe and secure place to learn, we need to work together to ensure this can happen in an appropriate timescale where all concerned feel they have been given enough information to make a fair, balanced decision. In this instance I do not feel this has been the case.

28. I think a 3 - 16 school will not be good for our area as I can't see any educational benefit from a 3 through to 16 school. I attended Saltney Ferry CP and see it as a community school and feel that if it merges with St David's this feeling of community will be lost. I am also concerned as my 2 sons may attend St David's and I think this will effect their education as the new build will be being built as they are attending. I feel that children who attend other primary schools in the area will be at a disadvantage when they start in key stage 3. I also think the other schools in the area will lose admissions and this may lead to other schools having to close down. Another concern is traffic congestion in Saltney in the morning and after school time. Also Young teenagers being asked to take and collect siblings from school. I feel this is a big safety issue.
29. I think it's very unfair that 1 school will get everything but other school within the same distance will get nothing, The other schools will get overlooked and parents will opt for the super school leaving the other good schools with less children. There may not be places in the high school for children that have attended the other schools which is totally unfair as St David's is our main high school within walking distance. Children attending the super school are with a huge advantage from the start leaving kids from the other schools a disadvantage
30. Larger schools provide a better choice and quality for post 16 pupils .e.g. Yale college in Wrexham. Moving from one school to another to try and maintain A level provision in small schools does not benefit the pupils.
31. Age gap is too big. Would be difficult to separate age groups at break, lunch etc. How can 1 head teacher cater for all needs of all ages. My children at Wood Memorial would have a disadvantage as extra funds going to super school therefore they have access to better facilities and teaching. Would my children definitely have a place - they would have to integrate where the other younger ones would already have been there for several years. It seems that you are rewarding Saltney Ferry who currently have poor results, where we have all worked very hard to improve Wood Memorial and we are being left out. I can see over the next few years that Wood Memorial intake would reduce as parents would enrol straight into the super school, 1 for funding, 2 for guaranteed high school place. Therefore would this not impact Wood Memorial as less children = less funding.
32. I think that Saltney should retain its primary schools and sixth form. There has not been enough consultation with the local community. It will change a lot of people's lives as well as the children who become part of the change and those children not affected by it. I hope I will still be here in 2020, but I wonder how many of those making these decisions will be still in their present positions?
33. I do not feel that amalgamating the senior leadership team from 2015 is a suitable time frame. The links between the high school and the current leadership team are not strong enough to support this change. Given the current Estyn status of school

and the PIAP I feel that implementing such a significant change could affect the progress rate of the Saltney ferry school. The time frame for amalgamation should be postponed until 2017 until it can be ensured that funding can be secured for the new single site school. Recent Ofsted and Estyn inspections in other areas have shown worrying findings for split site management. the additional time would allow for greater and much needed opportunity for working relationships to be developed and increased understanding of educational needs and avoid the highly criticised split site management.

34. Merging the 2 schools will have a detrimental affect on children starting St David's during the transition period as other children who have been there since 3 yrs old will already be familiar with the school and teachers which means ostracizing of the children who go to wood memorial school, who will also not have the privilege of all the extra facilities the super school will offer. This will create a divide in the school making it harder for children to fit in and make new friends as their friendships will have already been formed. When children start high school they are all equals.. doing it this will put others at an advantage which is wholly unfair.
35. concerns about school parking and danger to residents and pupils wellbeing as St David's street is very limited at present causing an overwhelming parking problem in and around this area. no plans available to prove otherwise .
36. Questions: 1. Will the two schools remain separate on current sites. If so, I would oppose. 2. Will a new building be erected, if so where? Opinion: The head of the combined school would need to be able to successfully cater for the needs and aspirations of children age range 3 to 16yrs. Requires a special talent! There would, also, be a need for several key staff at certain stages to cooperate and ease pupil transition through the larger school. are these people available?
37. I am concerned that when a school campus becomes too big, the lower achievers can be left behind.
38. Option 1 - I think 6th form will be better held in one hub in Connah's Quay which will avoid time wasted on transport to different locations as is the case with the present consortium. Option 2 - I think amalgamation should not take place at St David's until funding is available for the new school. Sept 2015 is too early and could be extended for at least another year, when more may be known about a new school. Senior manager should be in place at Saltney Ferry to have control of every day running of primary school.
39. Firstly having already had a child go through 6th form, I felt a lot of time was wasted travelling. The standard of teaching was not as high as at St David's resulting in subjects being dropped or low grades achieved. 2nd Option is a disadvantage for Broughton children as they will still have transition and are places guaranteed for them as this is presently their feeder school? Also no provision if a child doesn't want to travel to Connah's Quay.
40. Better facilities, easier & more effective transition. Opportunities to share proven teaching expertise across key stages.
41. Because I went to Saltney Ferry and St David's High School. They should stay as they are.
42. As a parent to a child of 5, I would not be happy for him to be mixing with older children of secondary age. Shared access, hearing bad language etc. I think I would worry about the safety and well being of my child. I don't think plans to merge the schools should happen until all plans and finance has been secured. It is very unnerving when answers to questions can not be provided. I think separate access is definitely something that needs a lot of thought. Not happy for a head teacher of a secondary school to also be head of infant and juniors. How will they be able to switch from dealing with for example, a teenager with an attitude problem to then be dealing with a young child who is missing home and needs comforting? I think the plans to merge the schools on different sites from September 2015 should be cancelled. How can a head manage 2 sites efficiently? One would suffer, which is likely to be the primary!
43. In respect to option two I feel it will be excellent for the local community to have a school that can offer up to date resources that will be utilised by primary and secondary sectors. However I feel very strongly that a new build should be carried out sympathetically with consultations with all interested parties every step of the way. I

would like to see disruption for the existing students kept to a minimum and would like reassurance that the senior management team will be kept under close scrutiny over the first few years to ensure that both primary and secondary children are reaching their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment; as my main concern with mixing various age groups would be to make sure that their everyday experiences are age appropriate.

44. I feel that moving 6th form education to a central hub will force learners locally into accessing the education system in Chester as a more accessible option. I think learners should be nurtured locally and education options should be provided at our own high school not a hub 10 miles away. With regards to a 3-16 year school I feel that this is a bad idea, children of all ages need space to grow and develop within their peer groups and not have to be subjected to the influences of potentially inappropriate behaviour. Young children especially need to feel nurtured and this happens well within a small community primary school, a merger will result in the loss of this. This is one of the reasons we chose Saltney ferry for our children and feel that they would have been overwhelmed by a big 3-16 school. The schools will be managed by the St David's management team, perceived as the more successful, yet they have no primary experience and this may well prove detrimental to the younger children. Removal of transition has been mentioned, children need to experience transition to build resilience. Has anyone thought of that? What happens in the big wide world when children can't cope with change. This philosophy also discriminates against children attending other schools who will have to feed into St David's. My recommendation would be to keep the primary school and use some of the funds to modernise and improve it so as to attract higher numbers and keep it viable. Instead of allowing it to fail to support this plan. There is very little available evidence to say that these through schools work and our children are not guinea pigs to experiment on.
45. I feel that the second option provides more opportunities to improve learning for people in the area.
46. It is wrong to remote aspects of change from the child's lives, it will offer them no life experience or resiliency. To spend so much of life in the 1 building will leads to a very stale and boring atmosphere not conducive to learning.
47. I feel I have no choice but to disagree with the suggested plans. Main reasons:
  - 1.Lack of accurate information on 3-16 schools. I have read conflicting reports compared to the claims made at the parents meeting.
  - 2.Lack of information regarding this specific school i.e. a)where and how the new school would be situated as St David's land is not big enough for two schools plus parking, I have real concerns that this could result in us losing our community centre, b)the traffic to St David's is already heavy at both entrances so how would that be managed? The majority of traffic passes my front door currently, c)future plans for Saltney Ferry land as I live close to it.
  - 3.Lack of time and effort made to inform local residents and prospective parents whom this may affect.
  - 4.I feel my own children wouldn't benefit from management changes such as one headteacher to 600+ students due to the loss of personalism, particularly the younger children who require consistent, familiar carers in order to learn at their very best.
  - 5.I question the emphasis put on the need for modern I.T equipment when teaching infants. While it is necessary in current times, at such a young age the emphasis should be on the three R's and personal development. My own children have very limited access to technology and are above national average academically due to the time spent with them. Overall I can't see any benefits to my children or the community from this merge going ahead.
48. I feel merging the schools will not benefit the children's wellbeing and development. My children attend Saltney Ferry and they thrive in the small setting, that's one of the reasons I chose the school for them. I feel they would become just a number in a school with the proposed amount of pupils and that they will be lost in the system. I do not think we have been given enough time or information to make a properly informed decision but on the information given I feel I can only disagree. I would like to hear more about how combining the governing body and funding only would work but if the buildings/land combine or they have just one headteacher to all the pupils I feel I will have no choice but to withdraw my children from Saltney Ferry and find them a smaller, more appropriate setting where I feel they will be nurtured into

reaching their full potential. As a resident of Mainwaring Estate I also have concerns as to what would become of Saltney Ferry's land and about the traffic and parking at St David's.

49. Concerned about distance my son would have to travel to sixth form hub. Can't see how having children of such age ranges in one school could work. Change in school again at a important time.
50. Rebuild a better primary school where presently situated and leave the ages of high school as is and put the money into better teaching and education.
51. I don't think option 2 would work and I don't think it would be fair on children moving from other primary schools up to High School. Keeping it the same is fair to everyone, merging primary schools would be better.
52. As a parent. School Governor and an employee of Wood Memorial primary school I have great concerns on how option 2 would impact on our school. Why hasn't Wood Memorial been involved in the planning process? How will nursery admissions affect our school?
53. Saltney Town Council would encourage the County Council to look at merging the two County Primary Schools in the Town into the new 'super site' with the provision for other community services i.e. the library; Town council offices; one-stop-shop and health facilities.



**Are you:**

Parent/Carer	39	<b>66.1%</b>
Teacher	2	<b>3.4%</b>
Support Staff	8	<b>13.6%</b>
Governor	8	<b>13.6%</b>
Other	14	<b>23.7%</b>

**Name of School**

St David's High School	23	39.0%
Saltney Ferry primary school	13	22.0%
Wood Memorial School	9	15.3%
Saltney Ferry & St David's High School	9	15.3%
St Anthony's CPS	1	1.7%
Broughton primary school	1	1.7%
Saltney	1	1.7%
No response	2	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Postcode**

CH2 1HZ	CH4 8JQ
CH4 0AE	CH4 8LR
CH4 0AH x2	CH4 8LX
CH4 0AL	CH4 8NA
CH4 0AQ x2	CH4 8NB
CH4 0AS x2	CH4 8PQ
CH4 0AT	CH4 8QN x3
CH4 0AX x2	CH4 8SG
CH4 0AZ x2	CH4 8SS
CH4 0BN x2	CH4 8ST x2
CH4 0BR x2	CH4 8TB
CH4 0BU	CH4 8TJ
CH4 0BX	CH4 8TS
CH4 0DR	CH4 8UB
CH4 0NR x2	CH4 8UD
CH4 0NZ	CH4 8UE
CH4 0PN	CH4 8UG
CH4 0QY	CH4 8UJ x2
CH4 0RA x2	CH4 8UP x3
CH4 0RH	CH4 9EA
CH4 8BW	CH5 4FX
CH4 8DH	