

**Wrexham County Borough Council**

## **Post Consultation Objection Report**

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

Ael-y-Bryn  
Brymbo  
Wrexham  
LL11 5DA

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## Statutory Notice



### **Statutory Notice 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.**

#### **School Standards and Organisations (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code (2018)**

#### **Wrexham County Borough Council**

Notice is given in accordance with section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018 that Wrexham County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, propose to increase the pupil capacity at Wrexham primary school St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, Bryn Coch, Ael-Y-Bryn, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5DA from 154 to 210 from September 2025. The increase in capacity is subject to obtaining planning permission on a new site at the former Brymbo Steelwork site, LL11 5FS. Without planning consent, the increase capacity will lapse.

Wrexham County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses, and the views of Estyn's full response is available on the local authority's website at [St Mary's CIW VA Brymbo Consultation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#)

It is proposed to implement the proposal from September 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Phase 7** – On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2031 up to 30 pupils will be admitted to Nursery and up to 30 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 plus 30 part time nursery places.

The proposed, St Mary's Brymbo, will remain a St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided primary school. St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided primary school, Brymbo will be the admission authority.

Transport for pupils shall be dealt with by reference to the Local Authority's School

Transport Policy. Details of the Local Authority's Admission Policy and School Transport Policy are available on Wrexham County Borough Council's [Website](#).

**Objection Period**

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 7 June 2024 any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to:

Chief Officer Education & Early Intervention

Wrexham County Borough Council

Crown Buildings

31 Chester Street

Wrexham

LL13 8BG

Or by email to: [StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:StMarysBrymboConsultation@wrexham.gov.uk)

Signed .....

Chief Officer Education & Early Intervention

Dated .....

## Publication of the Statutory Notice

On the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Wrexham County Borough Council published the Statutory Notice in relation to increase the pupil capacity at Wrexham primary school St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, Bryn Coch, Ael-Y-Bryn, Brymbo, Wrexham, LL11 5DA from 154 to 210 from September 2025.

The publication of the Statutory Notice saw the start of a 28 day formal Objection Period which came to an end on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The Statutory Notice has been published in accordance with Section 41 & 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which requires the School Organisation Code 2018 to be issued to and give guidance to relevant bodies (Welsh Ministers, Local Authorities, Governing Bodies).

Copies of the Statutory Notice were sent out to all consultees via emailed hard copies and were also accessible via website link.

The Statutory Notice was also published on the Wrexham County Borough Council webpage.

[St Mary's Church In Wales Voluntary Aided School Brymbo Consultation | Wrexham County Borough Council](#)

Below is the list of recipients who as consultees received a copy of the Statutory Notice, in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2018.

## List of Consultees

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

- Elected Members of Wrexham County Borough Council
- The Church in Wales and Catholic Dioceses
- Other Local Authorities: Flintshire County Council, Shropshire County Council, Denbighshire County Council, Powys County Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council
- The Governing Body of St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo
- All Wrexham Primary and Secondary School Governing Bodies
- All Wrexham Primary and Secondary Schools, including Welsh medium schools, English medium schools, Faith schools and Special 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
- Brymbo Community Council
- The Welsh in Education Forum, including Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam, RhAG and Mudiad Meithrin
- Welsh Ministers and Senedd Members: Lesley Griffiths MS, Ken Skates MS, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Mark Isherwood MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Sam Rowlands MS
- Local Members of Parliament: Sarah Atherton MP, Simon Baynes MP
- 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
- Local Communities First Partnerships
- Local Independent Nursery Providers, Playgroups, Childminders and Flying Start Providers
- The Children and Young People's Partnership
- The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership

The above list is not exhaustive and the consultation was open to all who wished to take part.

## Objection

Between 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024, one objection was received by Wrexham County Borough Council in relation to this proposal. The objection read:

*The Church in Wales have abandoned Brymbo as there were few Church attenders. A few people bought the Church building preventing it being sold as a secular residence. Why should this denomination be given a privileged position? A new primary school should be secular and inclusive of all backgrounds.*

## Local Authority Response to the Objection

In response to the objection, the Local Authority wish to highlight the following points:

- The consultation was undertaken on behalf of, and in collaboration with, the Parochial Trust and the Diocese who expressed their desire that there would be no change of status of the school.
- The Parochial Trust and the Diocese are funding 15% of the capital cost for the new school. There is no capital investment from WCBC.
- The Curriculum in Wales is inclusive of all backgrounds by design.
- It is important that as a Local Authority we ensure parents have a range of choice for schools that encompasses Faith, Welsh Medium and English Medium.
- There has been a faith based school in the village of Brymbo since 1872. The school moved to its current location in 1972.
- There would be a significant impact if St Mary's Brymbo no longer offered Faith based education, both in terms of the distance that parents would need to travel and in terms of potential increased transport costs.

All responses to the consultation were made available to Elected Members for decision making purposes.



## Executive Board Decision

Wrexham County Borough Council Executive Board will meet on **17 September 2024** to discuss the Objection Report for the proposal to proceed in increasing the pupil capacity at St. Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School in Brymbo from 154 to 210 as of 31 August 2025, with the potential to increase further to 315 if required as a result of future housing developments.

**The Executive Board will be asked for approval to proceed with the proposal as published. This will be the final decision in relation to the proposal.**

A final decision notice shall be published on the Wrexham website and all consultees will be notified.