

Policy 2: Models for Secondary School Organisation

The Council wants all schools to conform to the model of 21st Century Schools (see 21st Century Secondary Schools Vision.) It is not feasible for a secondary school with fewer than 600 pupils (plus 150 in 6th Form where appropriate) to provide the facilities described in this vision. Therefore the Council accepts that the minimum size for any new secondary school will be a four-form entry school providing 600 11-16 places.

In order to ensure that all secondary schools provide the best possible learning environments for children and young people, whilst providing the widest opportunities available the authority reserves the right to review schools with fewer than 600 11-16 pupils or more than 1500 11-16 pupils. Any review of secondary school provision will take into consideration the Learning Pathways available to pupils within the area.

Therefore:

- **Where a secondary school exceeds 1,500 pupils (11-16) for three years in succession, the authority reserves the right to review the school.**
- **Where a secondary school falls below 600 pupils (11-16) for three years in succession, the authority reserves the right to review the school.**

Small class sizes in sixth forms can lead to limited student interaction which diminishes the effectiveness of learning (Transforming Education & Training in Wales, Welsh Assembly Government, 2008). It may not be viable for all secondary schools to have 6th forms; it is dependant on the availability of post-16 provision within an area.

Therefore in line with the Welsh Assembly's 'Transformation Policy':

- **In any secondary school where the number of pupils within the 6th form falls below 150 pupils for three years in succession, the authority reserves the right to review the school.**
- **Any review will consider whether the school should become an 11-16 school only.**

The council has already published proposals to close the 6th forms of the two secondary schools in Rhyl. This policy is consistent with the proposals for Rhyl.