



**Rhyl High School**  
**Including**  
**Ysgol Tir Morfa**

**Travel Plan**

To be read in conjunction with the school's Traffic Management Plan

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## Foreword and Statement of Commitment

Rhyl High School and Ysgol Tir Morfa, Grange Road Site, provides accommodation for approximately 1,115 students and >180 staff (teaching and support).

The schools recognise the importance of improving safety for the students on their journey to and from school and the need to reduce, where ever possible, the number of vehicle trips, in favour of more sustainable modes of travel.

As part of this plan, the schools confirm their commitment to undertake student, parent and staff travel surveys. The schools also commit to introducing a Traffic Action Group and undertake a site audit to review the Travel Plan.

For the plan to be successful, it will require a partnership approach and active monitoring that will involve all sections of the schools' communities and partners, such as the local authority, Leisure Services and neighbouring residents.

### Purpose of the Document

The Rhyl High School Travel Plan covers students, employees and visitors travelling to the site for education and other purposes (e.g. accessing on-site facilities).

This Travel Plan will continue to uphold the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) appraisal of the original new build project.

### What is a Travel Plan?

The plan will set out a series of measures intended to promote the use of sustainable transport and to reduce reliance on single occupancy car journeys, as follows:

- Objectives - identifying what our Travel Plan is designed to achieve
- Targets - measurable goals to assess our progress in meeting the objectives
- Background information on Rhyl High School, including its students, staff & visitors and transport links to and within the school site, to help identify a suitable package of measures to help meet the objectives and targets
- An action plan setting out the package of measures proposed to help us meet the objectives and targets
- A clear strategy for implementing and monitoring the Travel Plan
- Plans for communicating and marketing the Travel Plan to raise awareness and win hearts and minds

This Travel Plan will receive ongoing development and periodic updating as the needs of the schools, and the people associated with them, change.

The Welsh Assembly Government<sup>1</sup> also makes reference to encouraging the production of Travel Plans and their importance as a *'tool to raise awareness of the impacts of travel decisions'*.

All Schools are encouraged to develop and implement school travel plans, which aim to:

- Promote active and sustainable travel
- Reduce traffic congestion around schools
- Offer children and parents an alternative choice of travel mode
- Increase personal safety of students and parents on the way to and from school
- Improve health & fitness
- Meet school students' needs by identifying problems they face on the school journey
- Develop student independence and self-esteem
- Reduce the vicious circle of school travel (i.e Parents fear danger from traffic – parents drive children/students to school – traffic increases – parents fear danger from traffic)

A School Travel Plan is produced and 'owned' by a school. It encompasses all the issues relevant to journeys to and from the school for both students and staff and includes concerns about safety and health, and proposals for ways to improvements.

## Travel Plan Aims & Objectives

The overall aim of this Travel Plan is to ensure that, where possible, students, staff and visitors use more environmentally friendly alternatives to driving in a vehicle, as a single occupant.

The Travel Plan has three specific objectives:

- To demonstrate Denbighshire County Council's commitment to Travel Planning and to promote the use of sustainable transport in the town and beyond
- To improve opportunities for and encourage travel by sustainable modes and to reduce unnecessary travel
- To raise staff and visitor awareness of the Travel Plan

### **Why we need a Travel Plan?**

Travel Plans are the Government's recommended way forward to widen travel choice, to promote more sustainable, cleaner travel modes and to reduce single occupancy car travel.

The National Travel Survey<sup>2</sup> (released WG 03/2011) estimates that on average around 1,000 trips are made in Wales, per person, per year, with people travelling an average distance of almost 135 miles a week. Approximately two-thirds of trips are made in either a car or a van.

Promoting healthy and sustainable travel can contribute to health and fitness where cycling and walking increase as a result.

### **What are the benefits of the Travel Plan?**

The Travel Plan process aims to help us make significant changes to the way we travel to work and school. This can contribute to cleaner air, a better local environment for residents, pedestrians and cyclists and possibly decreasing congestion. It may also help to relieve the pressures of parking at the site.

<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18 – 'Transport' (March 2007): Sections 9.12 – 9.15

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Transport Statistics 2010 – Chapter 6: Personal Travel

## School Information

### Rhyl High School

Rhyl High School is a new facility which was completed in March 2016. The school provides additional accommodation and facilities for up to 45 Key Stage 3 & 4 students with moderate learning difficulties, from Ysgol Tir Morfa, that benefit from access to and integration with a mainstream secondary school.

Rhyl High School is a Community School and serves a number of communities in the north of Denbighshire, predominantly in the town of Rhyl, but also including the neighbouring villages of Rhuddlan, Bodelwyddan and Kinmel Bay. Most students currently come from established partner primary schools; Ysgolion Emmanuel, Llywelyn, Christchurch and Bryn Hedydd in Rhyl and Ysgol Y Castell in Rhuddlan. Others come by parental preference from other areas.

Rhyl High School has the following who travel to the site daily:

- 1,075 students aged 11 – 16 years
- 63 Teachers
- 54 Support/Administrative Staff
- 23 Facilities Management and Caretaking Staff
- 3 others (County Service and Regional Cluster Staff)

### Ysgol Tir Morfa

Ysgol Tir Morfa is an all-age community Special School and serves a large number of communities across Denbighshire, ranging from Rhyl and Prestatyn in the north to Carrog in the south.

The main school site is located on Ffordd Derwen, Rhyl. Most KS3 & 4 students at the school were students in the primary department of the school.

Ysgol Tir Morfa has the following who travel to the Grange Road site daily:

- 45 students aged 11 – 16 years
- 5 Teachers
- 9 Teaching/Learning Support Assistants
- 1 Administrative Staff

### Hours of Operation

Students are expected to be on school site for the teaching day from 8.30am to 3.05pm. Staff are generally on school site between 7.30am and 6.30pm.

No service vehicles are permitted to enter or exit the school site between 8.00am and 9am or 2.30pm and 3.15pm, to allow taxis/minibuses and students on foot or bicycles to enter and exit the area.

Extra-curricular activities, such as after school clubs in Drama, Music, Football & Rugby take place on site. Inter-School sports matches also generate travel to the site, mostly during the afternoon and at the end of the school day. Visiting schools tend to travel by minibus to the site. Activities for the wider community take place on an ad hoc basis, throughout the day and after school hours.

## **Provision for Disabled Access**

An internal dedicated drop-off area is provided within the site, in close proximity to the entrance plaza for Rhyl High School, this includes drop pavements to allow access for wheelchairs.

Tactile paving is at road crossings on the public footpaths leading to the school site.

There are 30 points Light Reflectance Values (LRV) contrast on the entrances.

## **Measures Implemented to Minimise Car-Based Travel**

To minimise car based travel, the following has been incorporated:

- Car parking spaces x 70 including 6 disabled spaces
- Cycle Storage for 40 Bicycles

## **Ysgol Tir Morfa**

Due to the distance from home to school and the specific needs of individual students, the majority of students attending Ysgol Tir Morfa, Grange Road Site, are transported to and from school by taxi or minibus. Some students are transported to and from school in cars by their parents, with a very small number walking to school independently.

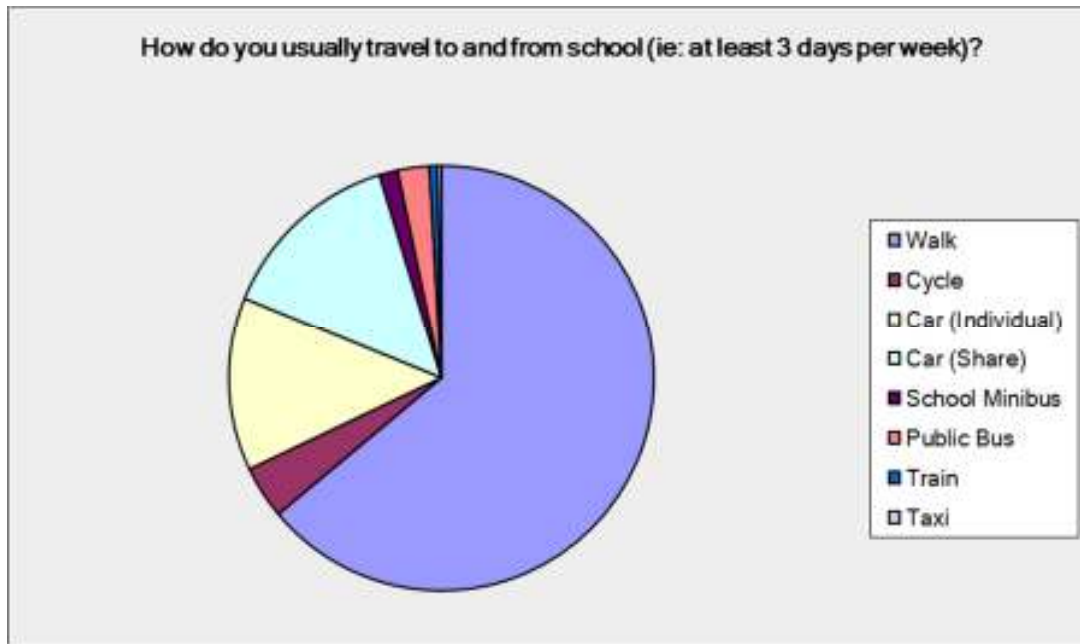
# Travel Survey

## 2017 Travel Survey

An on-line survey, using Survey Monkey, of KS3 & 4 students travel to and from school, was undertaken in March 2017.

The survey had a good response rate with 623 students out of 885 responding.

The results of this survey are illustrated below. The full report can be found on our school website.



How do you usually travel to and from school (ie: at least 3 days per week)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walk	63.8%	397
Cycle	4.0%	25
Car (Individual)	13.2%	82
Car (Share)	14.1%	88
School Minibus	1.4%	9
Public Bus	2.4%	15
Train	0.6%	4
Taxi	0.3%	2
<b>answered question</b>		<b>622</b>
<b>skipped question</b>		<b>1</b>

Rhyl High School already has a large proportion of students travelling by sustainable modes; in particular, 63.8% of respondents walk to and from school at least 3 days a week.



# Travelling To and From Rhyl High School

## Location

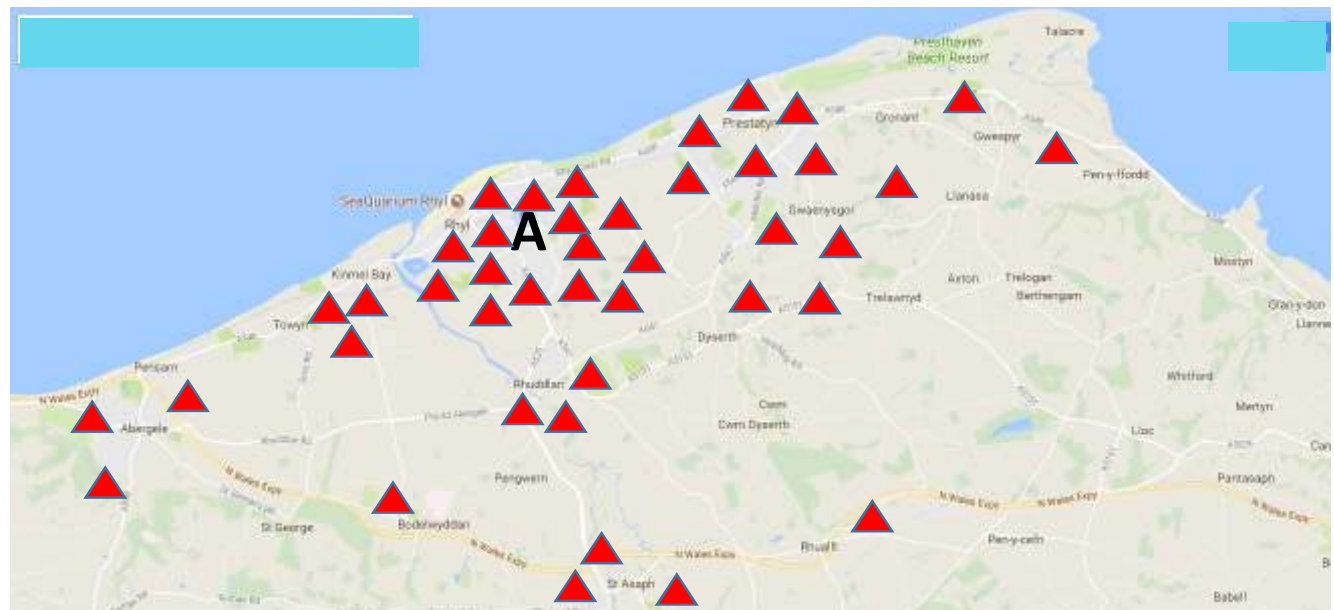
Rhyl High School is located on Grange Road, in Rhyl, shared with Rhyl Leisure Centre.

It is situated in a largely residential area and is close to local shops and services. It is in close proximity to the Botanical Gardens Community Recreational Facilities and Rhyl Football Club.

The school is shown on the map below, marked as **A**.



## Rhyl High School Catchment Area



## Ysgol Tir Morfa Catchment Area



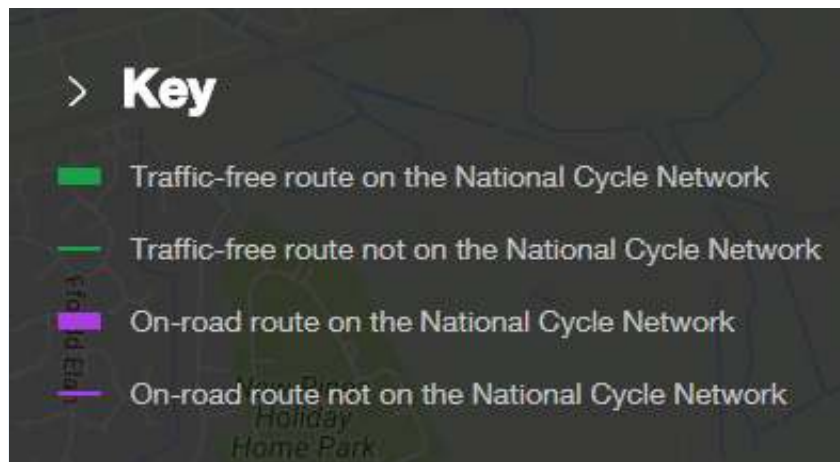
Due to the specialist nature of its provision, Ysgol Tir Morfa has a much larger catchment area across Denbighshire and neighbouring counties.

## Active Travel – Walking & Cycling

Rhyl High School is accessible on foot or by bike. The surrounding area has good pedestrian facilities, with wide pavements and appropriate crossing facilities. There is a periodic 20mph speed limit operational at peak school access/egress times on neighbouring routes.

There is a 5mph speed limit when entering the Rhyl Leisure Centre and Rhyl High School site, from Grange Road.

The site is traversed by a footpath/cycleway – known locally as ‘the cinder path’. The cycleway links into the local and national traffic-free and on-road cycle networks (see map below from sustrans website)



The Cinder Path has been improved with the development of the new school and is now a 'Plaza' area in front of the school, with safe rights o way, maintained for pedestrians and cyclists. Further details on the abouve routes, together with other nearby routes are available on the Sustrans website.

Secure cycle storage for 40 cycles has been installed near to the entrance of the school. The stands are well used. Storage lockers and changing facilities are available.

As indicated in the recent Travel survey, a high percentage of students already walk to school, however, there may be opportunities to implement actions to encourage an increase in the number of students and staff cycling to school.

### **Bus Travel**

Rhyl has several bus services which link residential areas to each other and to the town centre. The Arriva Wales services, 84, 84A, 83, 83A and 85 run close to the school.

Public transport information, including fares and door to door journey planning, is available from [www.travelinecymru.info](http://www.travelinecymru.info)

### **Arriva Rhyl Circular 83, 83A & 85**



## Arriva Rhyl Circular 84 & 84A



More information about bus services is available from the Arriva Wales Website.

### School Minibus

Rhyl High School provide a minibus service to Rhuddlan, only, at a small cost for the use of the transport. There are currently 26 students who use the school minibus service, which does two pick up and drop off services at 3 locations in Rhuddlan.

### Rail Travel

Rhyl High School is close to Rhyl Station, which is on the North Wales Coastline. This is the mail line with regular services linking Rhyl with Holyhead in the West and Chester in the East – the main rail hub for further connections to England and South Wales. There are also direct services to Cardiff, London, Manchester and Holyhead. Other local stations serviced on the North Wales Coastline include Abergele & Pensarn, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno Junction and Bangor to the West and Prestatyn, Mostyn, Flint and Shotton to the East.

### Driving

Rhyl High School has a one vehicle entrance from Grange Road. There are 70 parking spaces, 6 of which are Disabled bays. The car park facilities are utilised by school staff, visitors and 'community users' of the school and leisure centre.

There are 79 car parking spaces adjacent to the leisure centre. This is a total of 149 parking spaces.

An internal dedicated drop-off area is provided within the site, in close proximity to the entrance 'Plaza' for Rhyl High School. There is a designated drop-off and parking area for Ysgol Tir Morfa transport.

## Journey Sharing

There is no official journey sharing scheme in operation at present.

## Identified Travel Issues

There can be congestion of an afternoon, caused by Ysgol Tir Morfa transport arriving at Rhyl High School at 2.45pm for pick-up of Ysgol Tir Morfa students at 3.05pm. Rhyl High School parents also start arriving to collect their children at 2.30pm.

Parents park along the kerb on the exit route **(a)**, which can cause obstruction to the two-way traffic.

Some private vehicles do park in the designated Ysgol Tir Morfa Transport area.



**(a)**

Now has double yellow line markings but this does not deter parents parking here.

Both Ysgol Tir Morfa Transport and Rhyl High Parents park directly behind the disabled parking bays, causing obstruction to anyone needing to access or egress the bays. Some parents, who do not hold a valid blue badge park in the disabled bays.

At the end of the school day, students do loiter about the school area, for longer than is necessary.

Students have been seen to be running in and out, or cycling or on scooters, of stationary cars and across the main road, without stopping to check if vehicles are manoeuvring.

The car park areas get very busy during events such as parents evenings and after school productions.

## **Measures in place to minimise Identified Issues**

It has been requested that Ysgol Tir Morfa Transport arrives on site after 3pm for the 3.05pm pickups. This will allow Rhyl High School parents time to move away from the front of the school.

Rhyl Football Club have also agreed to allow Transport Drivers to park up in their car park to wait until 3pm.

Although there are now double yellow lines along the kerbside, to help ease the issue of the disabled parking bays becoming blocked, we have asked for parents and Ysgol Tir Morfa transport to pull up along the kerb, as long as it is safe to do so and not cause any further obstructions.

This was implemented in September 2017 and reviewed on a regular basis.

Signage is displayed at the start of the Ysgol Tir Morfa Drop off and parking zone to state it is a no parking zone and is a designated area. This has deterred a number of Rhyl High School parents from parking in this area.

Notes are placed on private vehicles, politely asking for them not to park in this zone. This has reduced the number of vehicles that have been parking in this area.

Letters are sent home to all parents, requesting they avoid driving into the car park of the school and to ensure they only use designated parking bays. Letters will be sent home at the start of every term as a reminder. This information is also emailed out and displayed on the school website.

The students are informed and reminded of Road Safety, during assemblies and form time.

The car park is manned during large events, where it is expected the car park will be unusually busy.

Rhyl High School staff work closely with Rhyl Leisure Centre staff to try to keep the traffic flowing around the car parks during busy events.

## Travel Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Review

Initially three main targets have been identified for delivery through this Travel Plan:

- Reduce the number of trips to school by car
- Increase Cycling
- Promote the use of sustainable travel

These will be monitored and further or revised objectives agreed, following subsequent student and staff travel surveys.

In order to deliver the targets an Action Plan has been produced. It is proposed that a Traffic Action Group (TAG) is established, consisting of a mix of students, staff and parents to implement the action plan and monitor performance against the targets.

Please see Targets set out on pages 17 - 18



<b>Target One: Reduce the Number of Trips to School by Car</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Current Action/Control Measures</b>
Travel Awareness	Travel Choices and route information to be available on school website/newsletters and incorporated into a student and staff induction communication	School	Medium Term, Continuous	Letters are sent to parents and information is displayed on our website, to request they avoid driving into the school car park, especially at the end of the day, but if unavoidable to only park in designated parking spaces.  Signage has been displayed in the YTM transport area to deter parents from parking in this area.  Travel Plan and Traffic Management Plan has been circulated and is available on the school website.
Form a Traffic Action Group (TAG)	Select a cross section of students of different ages, staff and parents	School	Short Term, continuous	TA Group has been established since September 2017. A leaflet to highlight the Benefits of Walking has been produced and shared with the school community. The TA Group are now highlighting the benefits of using public transport. The TA Group meet on a regular basis to plan and work on projects.
TAG students to present Travel Plan issued to school	Annual presentation	TAG/School	Medium Term	Not completed
Educate Parents	Inform Parents of the views of residents and preferred routes to school through newsletter, periodic letters and school website	TAG/School	Medium Term, continuous	Letters are sent to parents and information is displayed on our website, to request they avoid driving into the school car park, especially at the end of the day, but if unavoidable to only park in designated parking spaces.  Signage has been displayed in the YTM transport area to deter parents from parking in this area.  Travel Plan and Traffic Management Plan has been circulated and is available on the school website.
Add a 'how to get to school' section on the school website. Detailing all the sustainable travel options	Update information when new cycle/walking routes become available or if a new bus service or stop is implemented	TAG/School	Short Term, continuous	Completed
Encourage Car Sharing between staff to ensure that parking at the school is not over-subscribed	Provide a car share database at the school	TAG/School	Short Term, continuous	This is difficult as we have a number of staff travelling from outside the area with their own personal commitments, so it is not always easy to car share.

<b>Target Two: Increase Cycling</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Current Action/Control Measures</b>
Promote Pedestrian/Cycle routes	Identify and publicise in newsletter and school website	TAG/School	Medium Term, continuous	completed
Get involved in National Awareness Events	Participate in one bike to school event a year.	TAG/School	Short Term, continuous	
Promote use of cycle facilities to Staff and students	Mention during assemblies/within newsletters and on school website. Promote DCC Cycle to Work Scheme. Increase staff confidence of Bike security.	TAG/School (HOHs)	Short Term, continuous	Unfortunately, due to vandalism, our bike shed is not secure and all students and parents have been reminded to provide locks for bikes left in our bike shed.  Staff are reluctant to store their bikes in the same location as the students.
Instigate 'Bike to School' days and investigate incentives	At least one day per term	TAG/School	Short Term, Continuous	2x L3 Bikeability courses have been held with Yr7, 8 & 9 students.

<b>Target Three: Promote the use of sustainable travel</b>				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Current Action/Control Measures</b>
Make Travel Plan available to parents, staff, students and the local community	Publish Travel Plan on the school website, hard copies available for parents and students	TAG	Short Term, continuous	Travel Plan and Traffic Management Plan has been circulated and is available on the school website.
Ensure the families of all new and potential students receive information on travel options	Information added on travel in school prospectus	TAG/School	Short Term, continuous	
Information to parents and students including the use of local maps	Via newsletters and school website	TAG/School	Short Term, continuous	Travel Plan and Traffic Management Plan has been circulated and is available on the school website.
Promote local bus stops and frequency of buses	Add route information to newsletters and school website	TAG/School	Short Term, Continuous	Arriva information has been displayed on school website.

## **Survey Data**

A student survey carried out in December 2013 provided a baseline for monitoring the Travel plan. Follow on surveys, including staff & Parent travel surveys, were undertaken in March 2017 to update the baselines.

Travel Surveys will be undertaken on a periodic basis in order to identify current trends, further opportunities and revised measures and targets for promoting sustainable travel.

## **Monitoring**

In order to achieve the Travel Plan's objectives, the actions set out in the Action Plan should be monitored.

A programme will be developed for communicating the Travel Plan with the whole school community, including students, staff, the school council, Governors, Friends of Rhyl High Committee and linking in with Eco-Schools and Healthy Schools programmes.

The Travel Plan and information about sustainable travel will be communicated to staff, students and visitors to the school. This may include for example, using the school's website, networks, such as the school council, notice boards within the school, school assemblies and taking part in events such as Bike Week.

## Student Forecast 2015 - 2021

<b>Denbighshire County Council – Modernising Education, High School Projection 2014/15- 2020/21</b>								
<b>School – Rhyl High</b>		<b>Admission No 2014/2015</b>						
		<b>Current Capacity</b>		1315				
Cluster Schools	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bryn Hedydd CP		53	59	60	60	57	60	60
Christchurch CP		22	44	54	51	60	66	58
Emmanuel CP		28	57	61	57	59	60	59
Llewelyn CP		38	70	66	69	79	90	67
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>244</b>
Less Transfers out			80	80	80	80	80	80
Add Others*		7						
	<b>Actual Projections</b>							
<b>Yr7</b>	153	149	191	231	233	230	230	230
<b>Yr8</b>	161	151	162	190	230	233	230	230
<b>Yr9</b>	152	150	164	163	188	230	233	230
<b>Yr10</b>	166	157	157	164	163	188	230	233
<b>Yr11</b>	135	155	142	134	164	163	188	230
<b>Totals</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,153</b>

\*The figure shown is the net figure calculated from the predicted transfers out (from the cluster primary schools) and the predicted transfers in (from non-cluster primary schools including, where appropriate, cross boundary movement)