




Wirral's Children
Phase 3
Consultation in Leasowe
Spring 2007

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The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect this school
- Your comments


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The Primary Places Review:

September 2004
Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

October 2004
Council begins reviewing North, South, Central Birkenhead and Beechwood

October 2005
Proposals published for North Birkenhead, Beechwood and South Birkenhead

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The Primary Places Review:

October 2005
Council begins reviewing Bebington, Spital, Thornton Hough, Bromborough and Eastham

December 2005
Children's Services inspection says

- there are too many surplus places in the primary sector
- progress in reducing surplus places has been slow, but a clear strategy is now being implemented which is likely to involve some school closures


April 2006
Proposals published for Bromborough Pool Primary
Proposal for St Mary's CE (Eastham) published January 2007

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The Primary Places Review


October 2006
Council begins reviewing Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe, South Wallasey, North Wallasey, Greasby and Upton

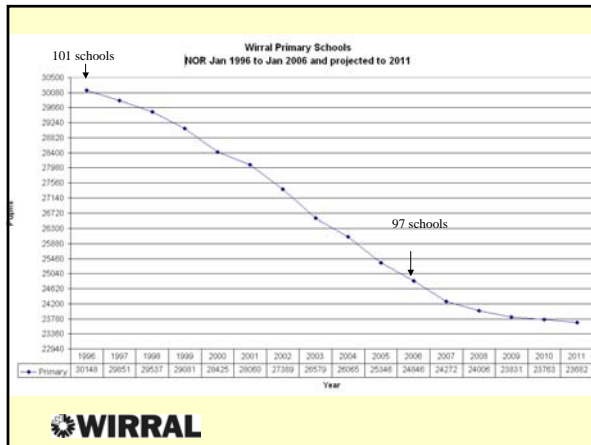
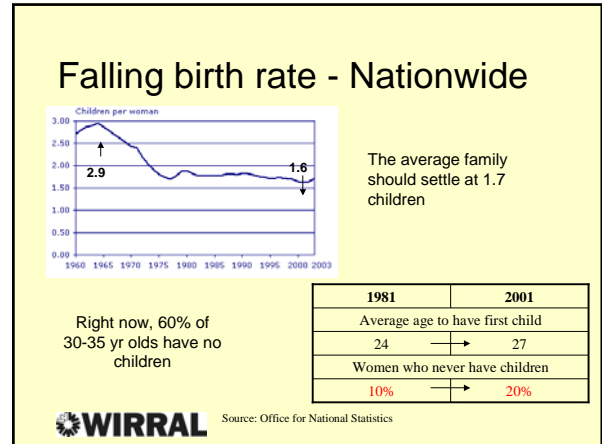
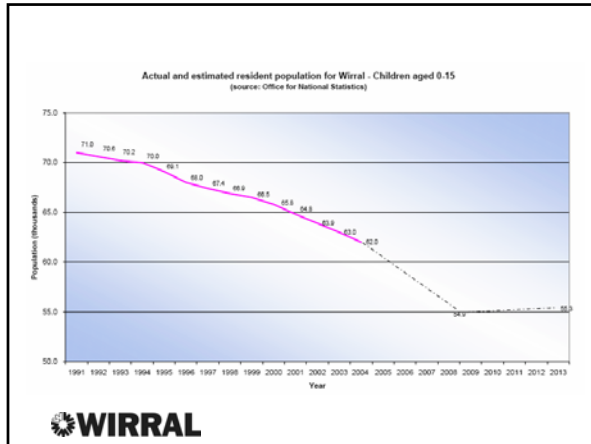
January 2007
Consultation begins on options for Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe and South Wallasey

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Important to:

- Focus on the needs of children not schools
- Think about the next generation
- Share information
- Trust one another
- What will work, and what will not work?

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Surplus places in Wirral

In 2006
12% empty places

Spending £4.2 million pounds or £165 per primary pupil on empty spaces

By 2011
16% surplus places

1 in 4 schools will have more than 25% surplus places

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Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission says **surplus space** in schools should be **between 5% and 10%**
- Above 10%, wasting money supporting empty classrooms
- 4%-5% allows degree of parental choice
- No school should have more than 25% surplus – annual return to Government

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Creative removal of surplus

LA and Schools have created:

- ICT suites
- Libraries
- Parents rooms
- Pre-school playgroups
- Afterschool/Breakfast clubs
- Adult Learning facilities
- Bases for other services

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles

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Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- Standards
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues



How small is small?

- School Organisation Plan (2003) says under 210
- Wirral Policy (2005) says under 180
- DfES (2005) says under 150



Small Schools

- Financial – maintaining small school is at the expense of all children
- Organisational issues – mixed age classes
- Additional burden on staff
- Curriculum issues



What has happened so far

120 classroom equivalents removed without closing any schools

Phase 1 - Birkenhead and Beechwood

- Amalgamation of Prenton Infant and Junior
- Amalgamation of St Oswald's CE and Vyner Primary
- Closure of The Dell Primary

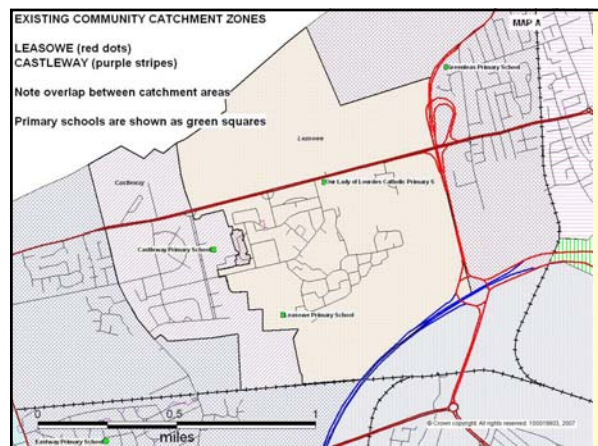
Phase 2 - Bromborough, Eastham, Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

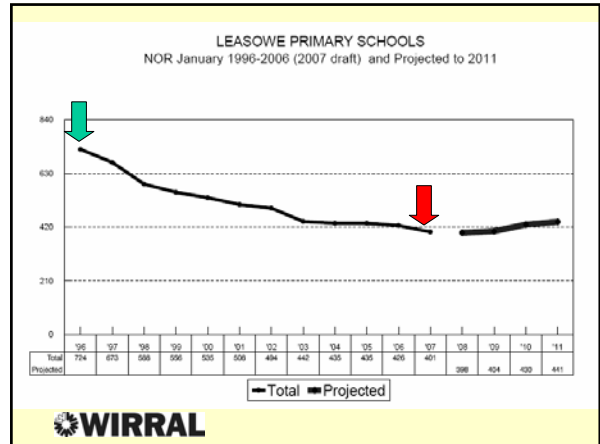
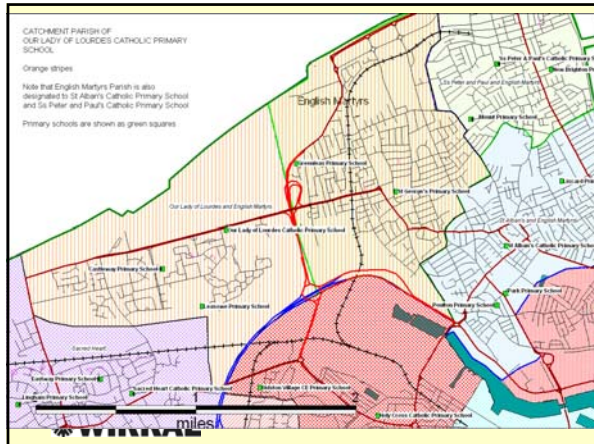
- Closure of Bromborough Pool Primary (Summer 2007)
- Also, mobile removal, pre-school re-location
- Proposed closure of St Mary's CE (Eastham)



Leasowe

- Castleway
- Leasowe
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic
- Leasowe Early Years and Adult Learning Centre



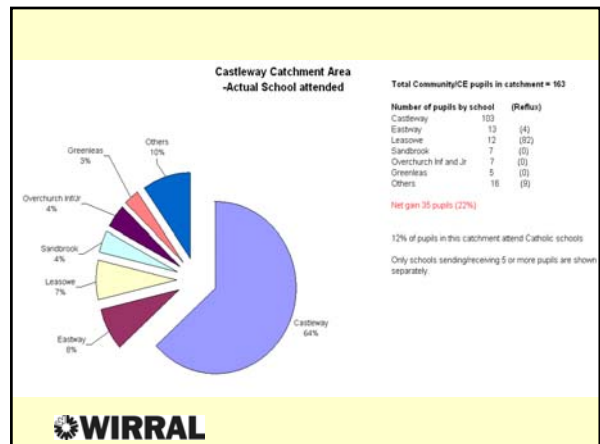
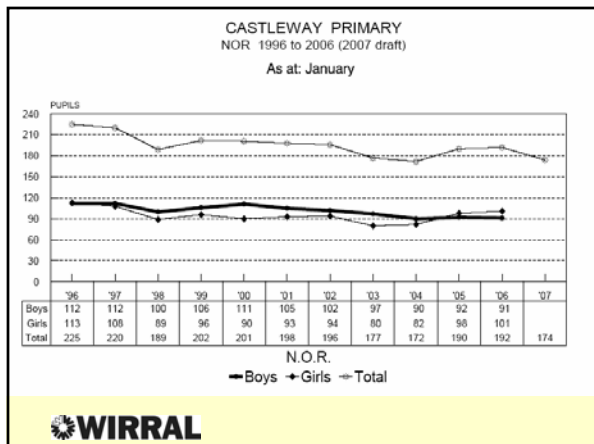
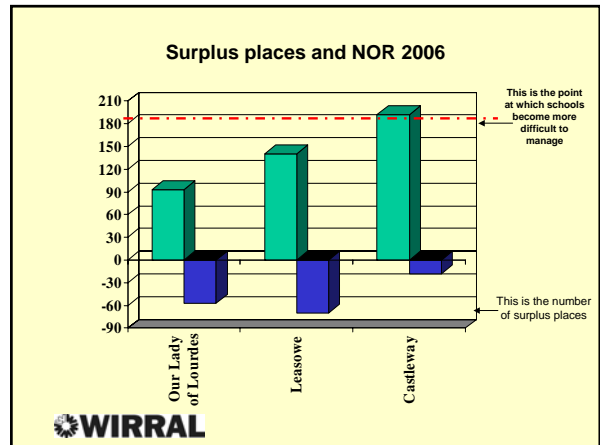


Surplus places in Leasowe area

In 2006
25% surplus places

By 2011
23% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places



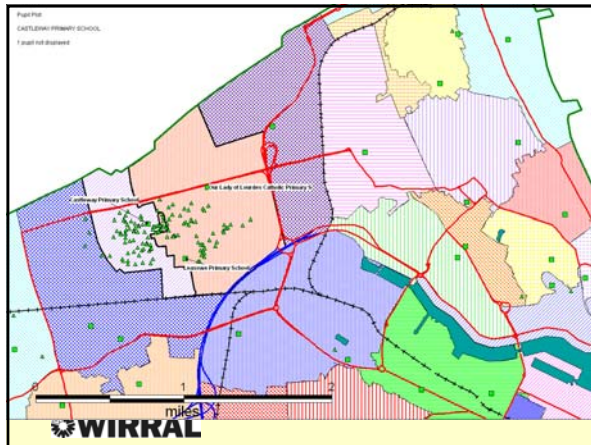
What Ofsted said 2006

- This school requires special measures because it is failing to give its children an acceptable standard of education and persons responsible for leading and managing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvements. The school does not offer value for money.
- The school faced a period of disruption in 03-04 associated with some difficult staffing issues. These contributed to, and accelerated, the already declining standards in KS2. The school's self-evaluation is inaccurate and not based on rigorous monitoring. The quality of teaching and learning is inadequate in KS2; consequently standards and achievement are significantly low by the time the children reach the end of Y6. Although there has been some recent improvement in teaching, the pace of learning is slow and teachers' expectations of what the children can achieve are not high enough.
- Quality and standards in Foundation are good. From a starting point that is well below average, the children make good progress through to Y2. By Y2 standards are broadly average.
- Despite recent support from the LA, leadership and management are inadequate. The school has not fully responded to the issues raised from the last inspection, and many important aspects such as the quality of teaching and leadership have declined.
- Improvement in the use made of ICT to support teaching and learning has been good.
- Attendance has risen significantly this school year and is satisfactory, as is the quality of the care and support children receive.
- There are strengths in children's personal development and well-being, and children's behaviour is good.
- The school should improve standards and achievement in English, maths and science by the end of Y6.
- The school should ensure the quality of teaching, pace of learning and expectations of what children in KS2 can achieve are consistently good enough to enable children to perform their best.
- The school should improve the leadership and management of the school and develop a rigorous system of self-evaluation.



Result of Ofsted monitoring visit 2006

- Raise standards and achievement in English, mathematics and science by the end of Year 6 – **inadequate** progress.
- Ensure the quality of teaching, pace of learning and expectations of what children in Key Stage 2 can achieve are consistently good enough to enable children to perform their best – **satisfactory** progress.
- Improve the leadership and management of the school and develop a rigorous system of self-evaluation – **satisfactory** progress.
- The school should ensure teachers make more effective use of assessment to plan lessons that provide the appropriate challenge for all pupils.
- The school should ensure senior managers are more proactive in developing and implementing robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the work of the school.



Options for Leasowe

Option A: Closure of Castleway Primary School

Option B: Amalgamate Castleway and Leasowe into a single primary school on either site

The following options all involve faith school provision in the Leasowe area

Option C: Closure of Our Lady of Lourdes

Option D1: A joint denominational (church) school

Option D2: Expand Our Lady of Lourdes to 210 places

Option D3: Maintain Our Lady of Lourdes at current size – no change

Option D1 is suggested jointly by the Anglican and Catholic Dioceses

Options D2 and D3 are suggestions from the Catholic Diocese



A – Close Castleway Primary School

- Castleway in Special Measures
- Places at local schools
- Catchment rezoned to Leasowe Primary School
- 4 to 5 new classrooms built at Leasowe Primary



B – Amalgamation of Castleway and Leasowe

- Castleway and Leasowe close
- New primary school opens on single site
 - 4 to 5 classrooms at Leasowe OR
 - 2 or more classrooms at Castleway
- Both catchments zoned to new school



C – Closure of Our Lady of Lourdes

- Small school
- 34% attend Our Lady's from both catchment parishes
- 1 in 5 from Our Lady's parish attend Sacred Heart – change in admission number could accommodate all
- No longer a faith school in Leasowe area



D1 – Joint denominational school

- No Church of England schools in Wallasey or Leasowe at present
- 210 place primary school
- Admissions criteria and catchment parishes set by governing body
- 2 new classrooms at Our Lady's site – likely to increase surplus places
- OR if combined with option A or B, open at either Castleway or Leasowe site – no building work required



D2 – Expand Our Lady of Lourdes

- Two new classrooms – expand to 210 places
- School is undersubscribed
- Increases surplus places
- Could only operate with either Option A or Option B
- How many parents would choose to transfer to Our Lady of Lourdes?



D3 – Maintain Our Lady of Lourdes at current size

- No change to Our Lady of Lourdes



What happens next?

March 2007

Consultation ends

April/May 2007

Recommended options report goes to Cabinet

June/July 2007

Statutory notices published, representation period begins

August/September 2007

Proposals to SOC (current regs) and/or to Adjudicator



What will happen after the review

- Places for all the children in local schools
- Parents say which school they would prefer their child to attend
- Admissions criteria place the children
- Children move together so will have friends in their new school
- Enhancements to receiving schools
- Catchment areas revised
- Staff redeployed
- Council decide future of any closed community site

Earliest date for any option is September 2008



Remember:

- The Council must address these issues
- A decision has not yet been made
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- It is about spending money more wisely
- We must find sensible and effective solutions based on all the factors involved.

