




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

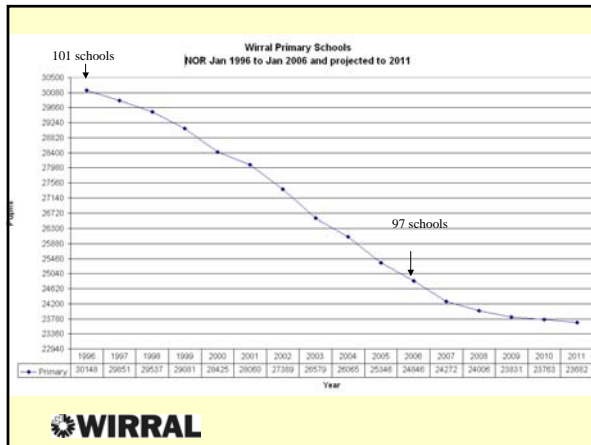
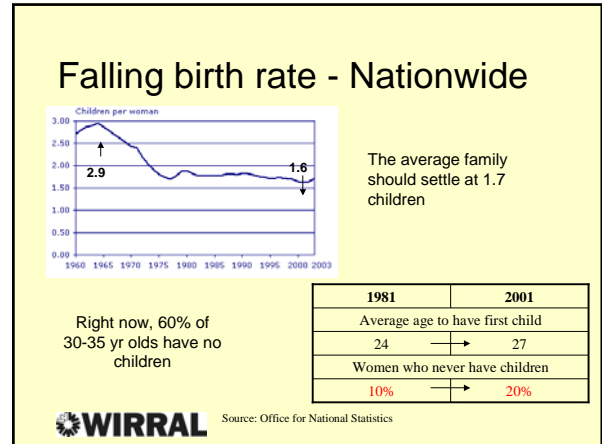
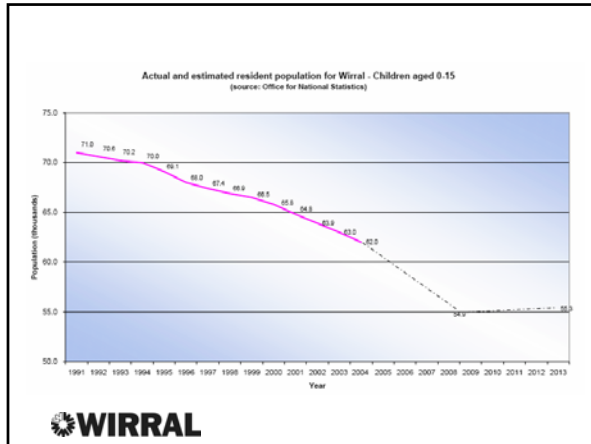
January 2007
Consultation begins on options for Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe and South Wallasey

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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

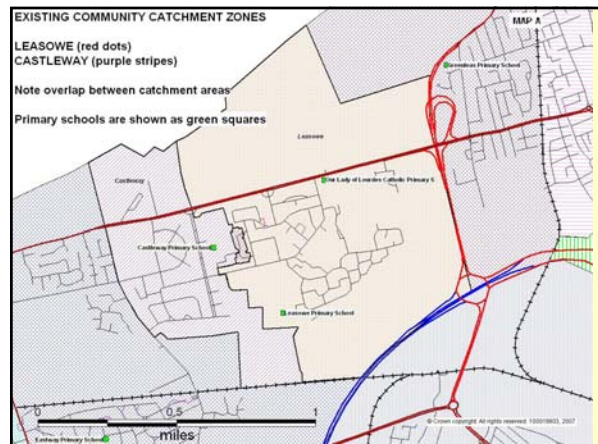
Phase 2 - Bromborough, Eastham, Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

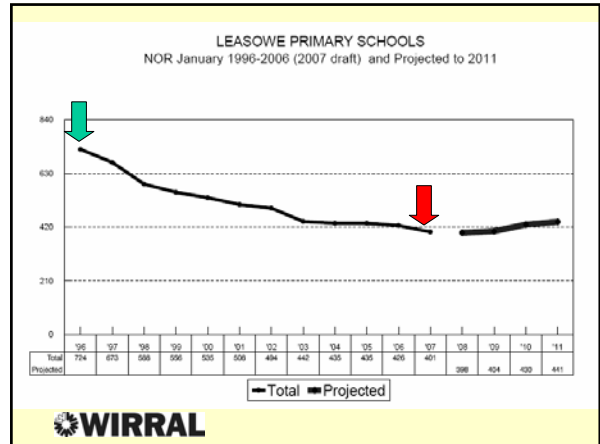
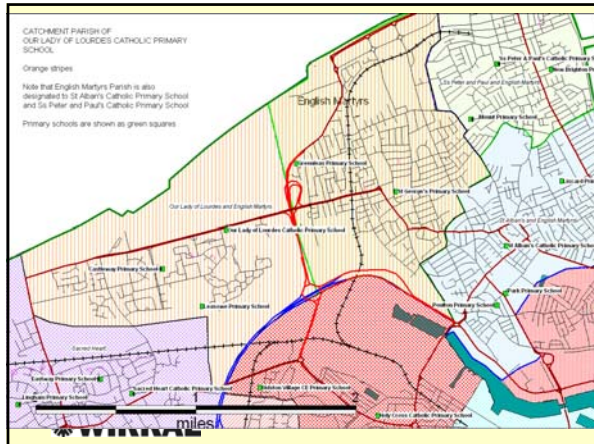
- Closure of Bromborough Pool Primary (Summer 2007)
- Also, mobile removal, pre-school re-location
- Proposed closure of St Mary's CE (Eastham)



Leasowe

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



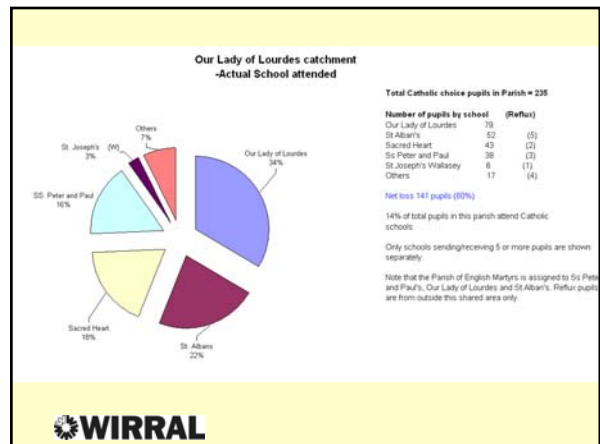
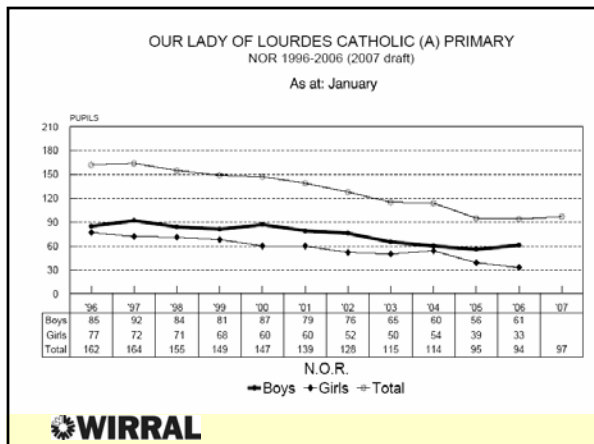
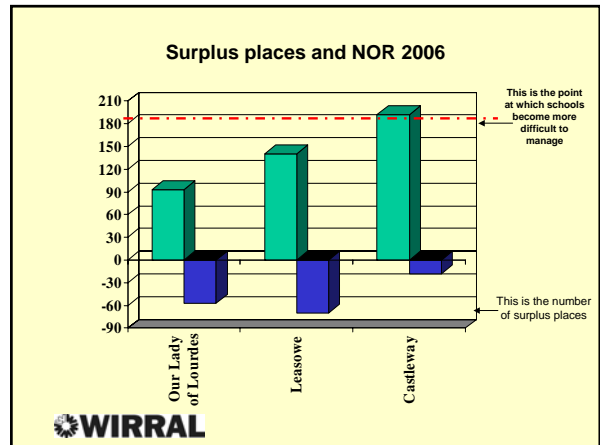


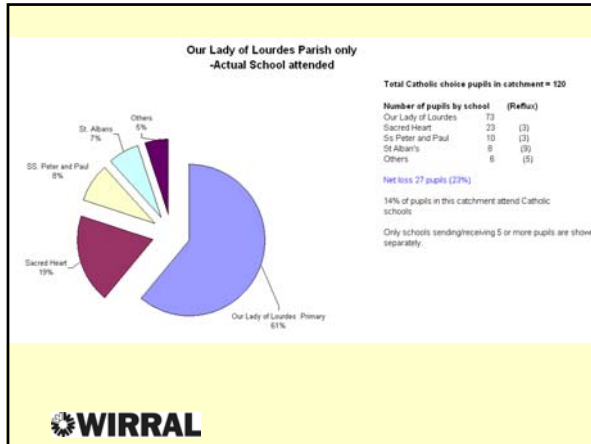
Surplus places in Leasowe area

In 2006
25% surplus places

By 2011
23% surplus places

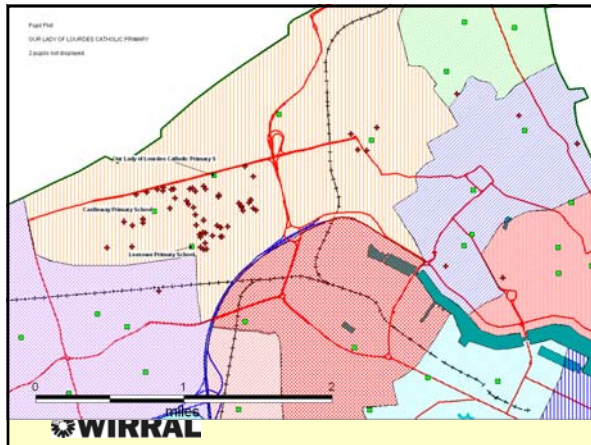
We must act to reduce surplus places





What Ofsted said (2005)

- The school no longer requires Special Measures, since it is now providing an acceptable standard of education for its pupils. This is the result of the very good leadership of the headteacher and the hard work and commitment of the teachers.
- Standards are below national expectations, and lower than they should be, but they are rising as a consequence of good teaching and curriculum planning which takes account of the pupils' learning needs.
- The pupils make at least satisfactory progress and in the Foundation Stage they achieve well.
- The pupils' attitudes and behaviour are good, reflecting an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust founded on the school's Christian ethos.
- The pupils benefit from visits and participate enthusiastically in an appropriate range of extracurricular activities.
- The school is well placed to improve further. The headteacher has set a strong focus on raising standards through improving the quality of teaching and learning. To this end, robust monitoring procedures have been established; relevant training and support for staff result from accurate evaluations of areas for development. In addition, they provide a firm foundation for identifying the school's strategic priorities.
- Senior teachers have a shared understanding of the school's direction but their roles, and the coordination of the foundation subjects, are underdeveloped.
- The governing body is providing a rigorous level of challenge to the school.
- The local education authority (LEA) is committed to continued support for raising standards in the school.
- The school should raise standards at KS2 in English, maths and science and at KS1 in writing
- The school should ensure that leadership and management responsibilities, including those for subject coordination, are developed and distributed to best meet the needs 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.

