



Wirral's Children Mendell Primary

Consultation
January 2006



The meeting

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



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



The Primary Places Review:

October 2005

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

December 2005

Council decides to consult on options for Bromborough and Eastham



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?



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



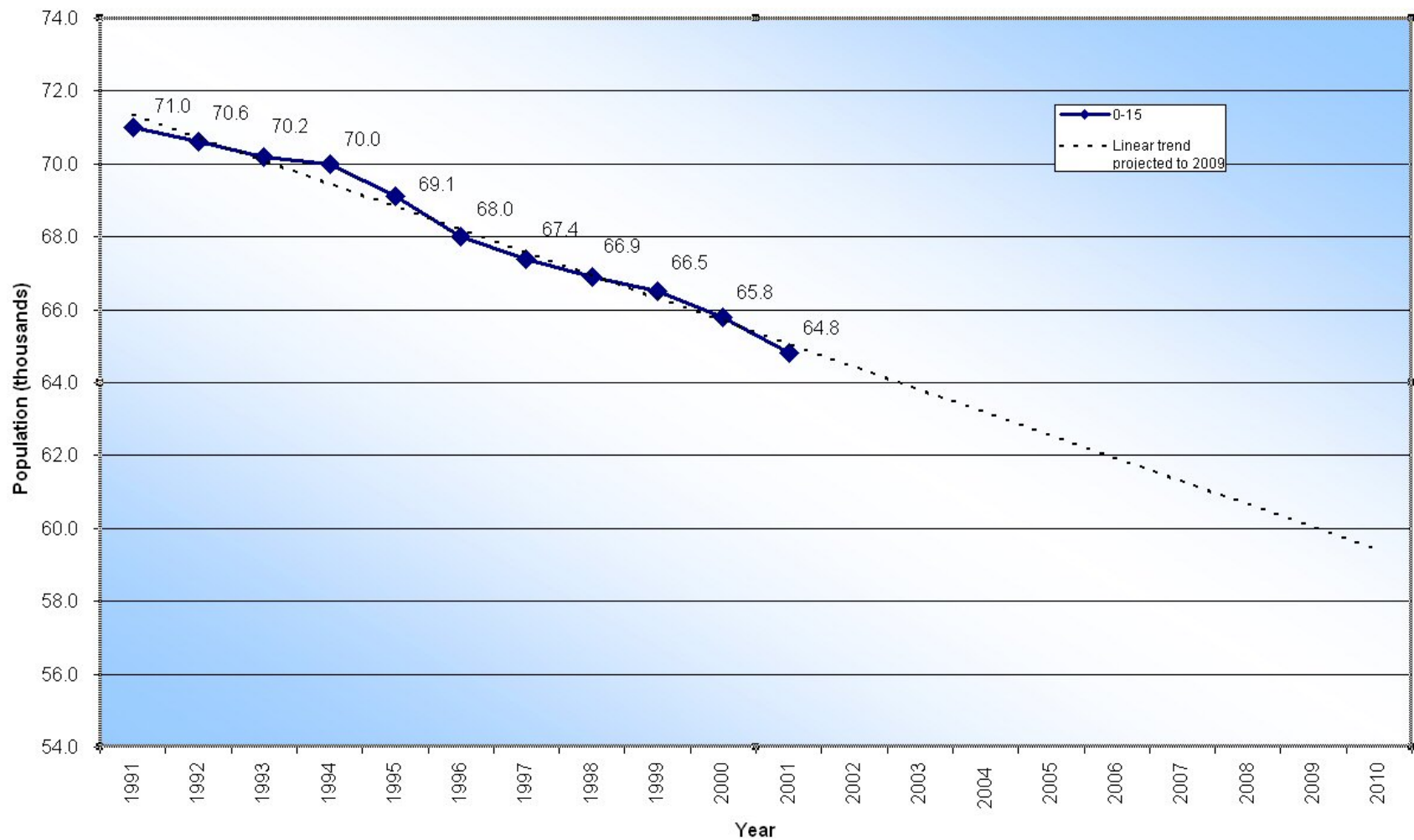
Outcome of Children's Services Inspection, December 2005

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

Falling population - Wirral

Actual and estimated resident population for Wirral - Children aged 0-15 in line with 2001 Census

(Source: Office for National Statistics)





Surplus places in Wirral

In 2005

12% empty places

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

By 2010

20% surplus places

Spending £7 million on empty spaces

1 in 3 schools will have more than 25% surplus places



Creative removal of surplus

LEA 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

Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- 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



Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

Brackenwood Infant
Brackenwood Junior
Church Drive Primary
Grove Street Primary
Higher Bebington Jr
Stanton Road Primary
Town Lane Infant

St Andrew's CE
St John's Infant
St John's Junior
Poulton Lancelyn
Thornton Hough

Surplus places in Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

In 2005

8% surplus places

By 2010

14% surplus places

No action at this time – continue to monitor situation



Bromborough and Eastham

Brookhurst

Bromborough Pool

Heygarth

Mendell

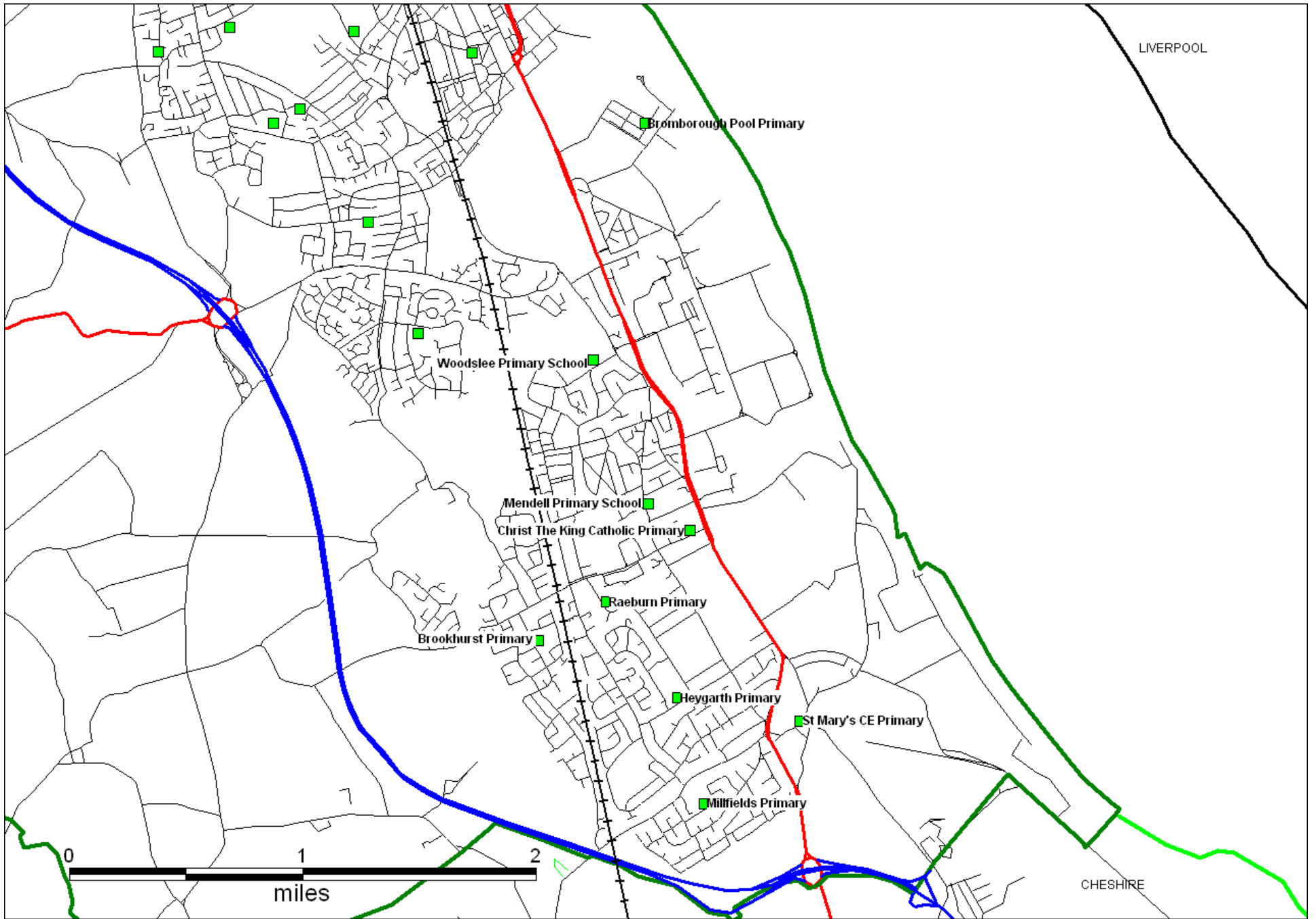
Millfields

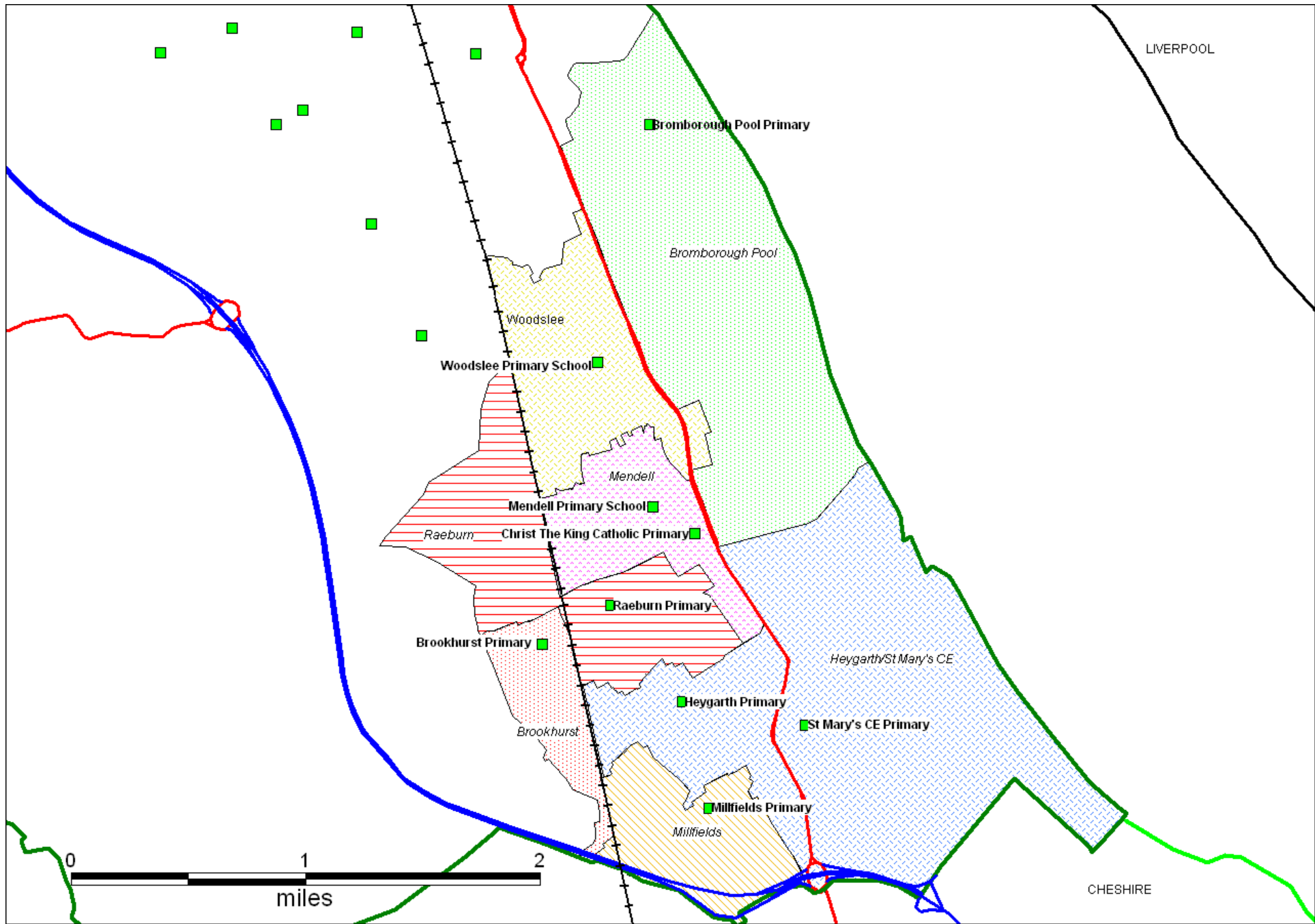
Raeburn

Woodslee

St Mary's CE

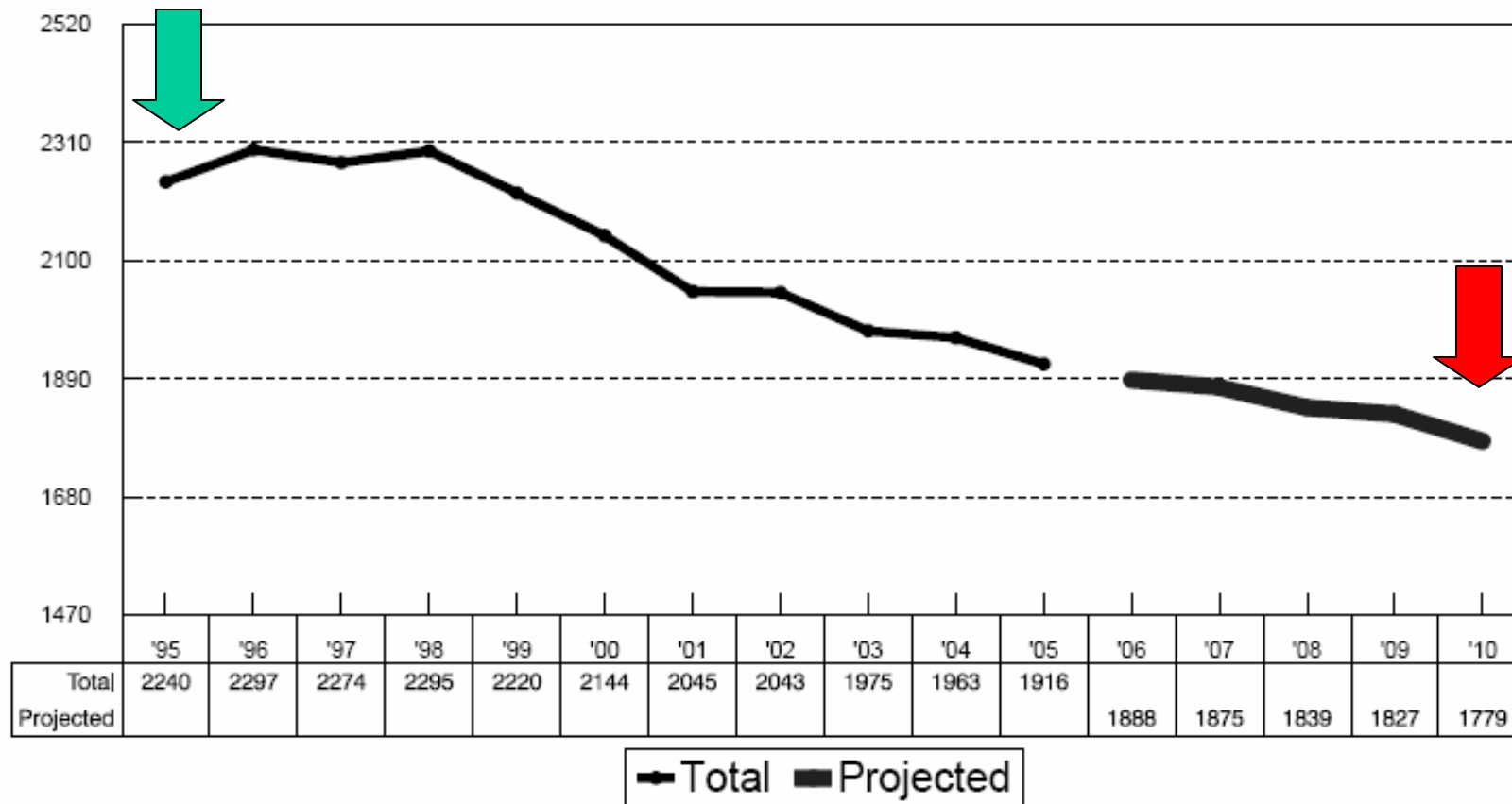
Christ the King Catholic





Bromborough/Eastham Projections

Bromborough Primary Schools
Numbers on Roll 1995-2005 and proj to 2010





Surplus places in Bromborough/Eastham Area

In 2005

17% surplus places

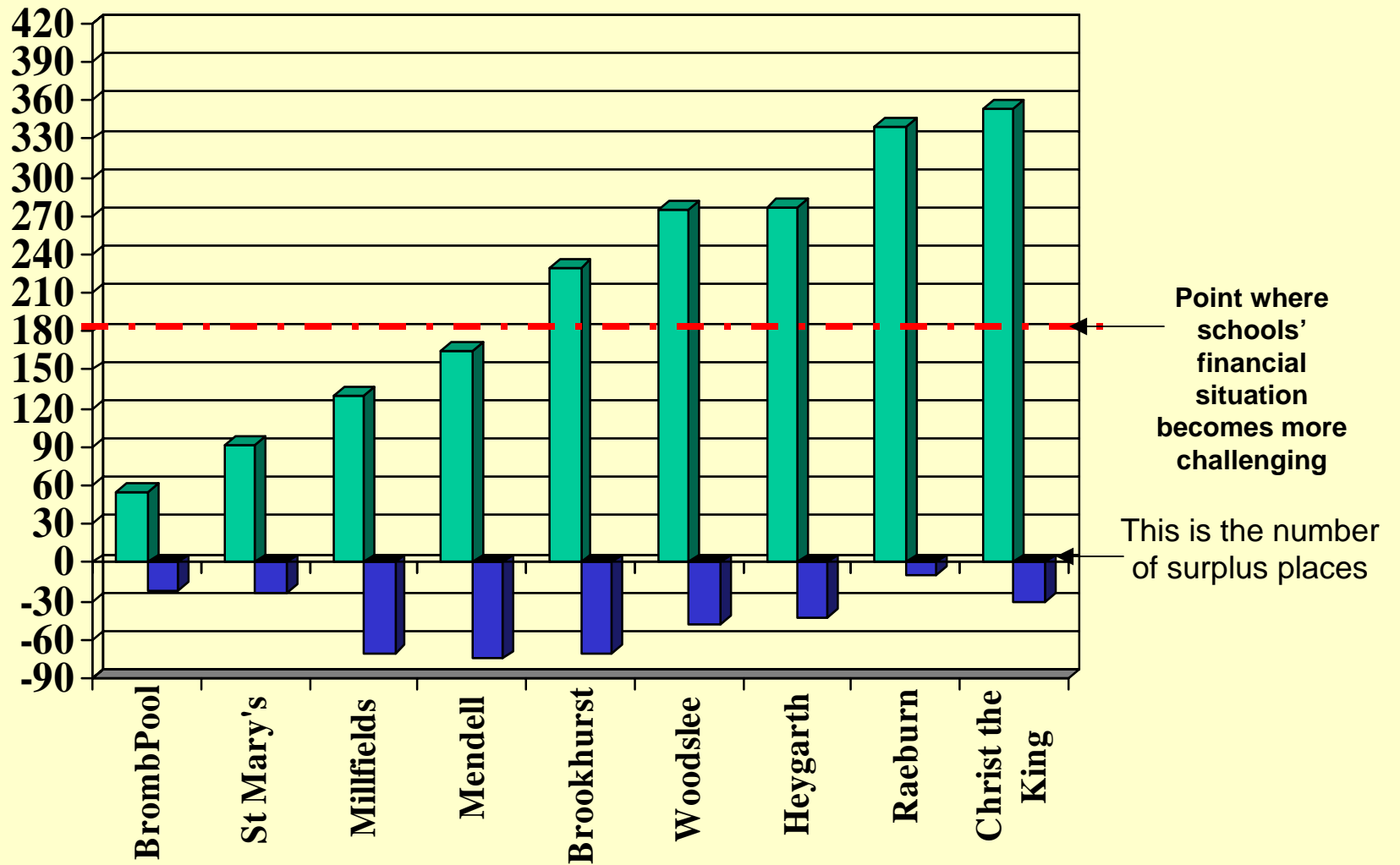
By 2010

23% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places



School size and surplus places

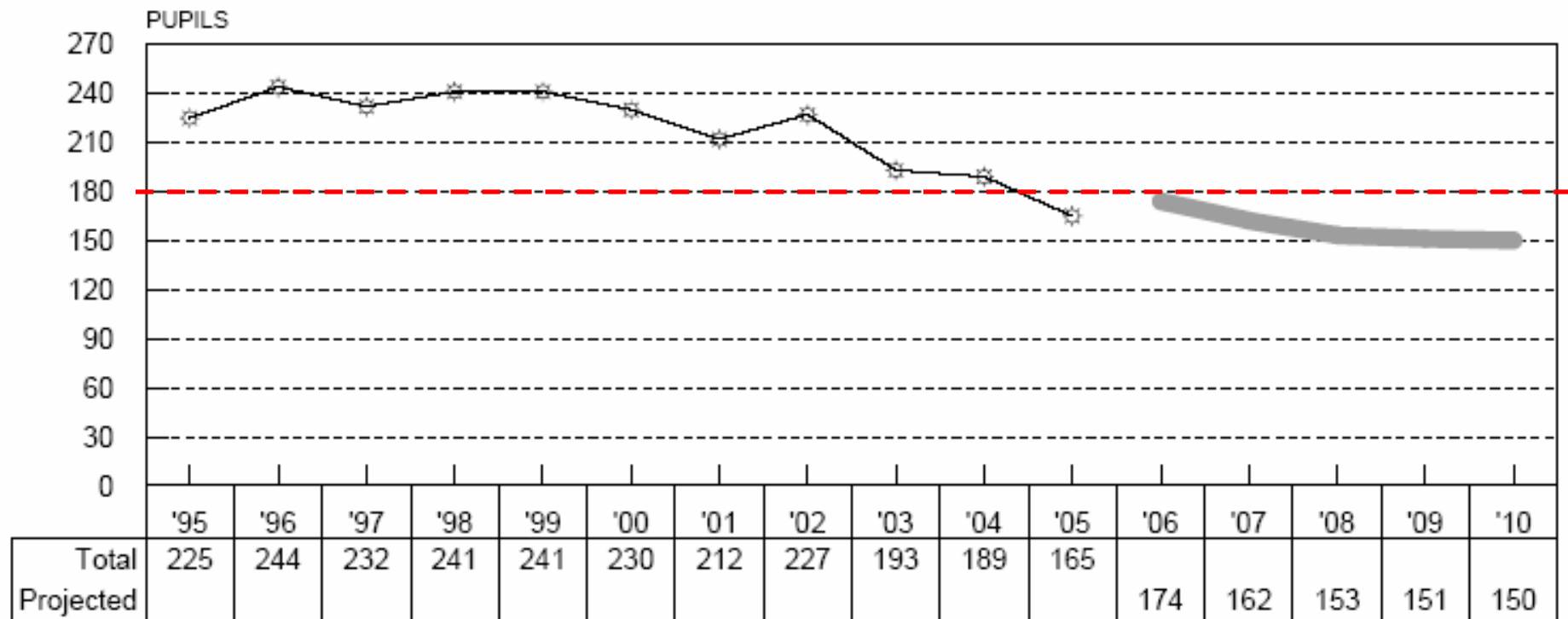




MENDELL PRIMARY

NOR 1995-2005 and Projected to 2010

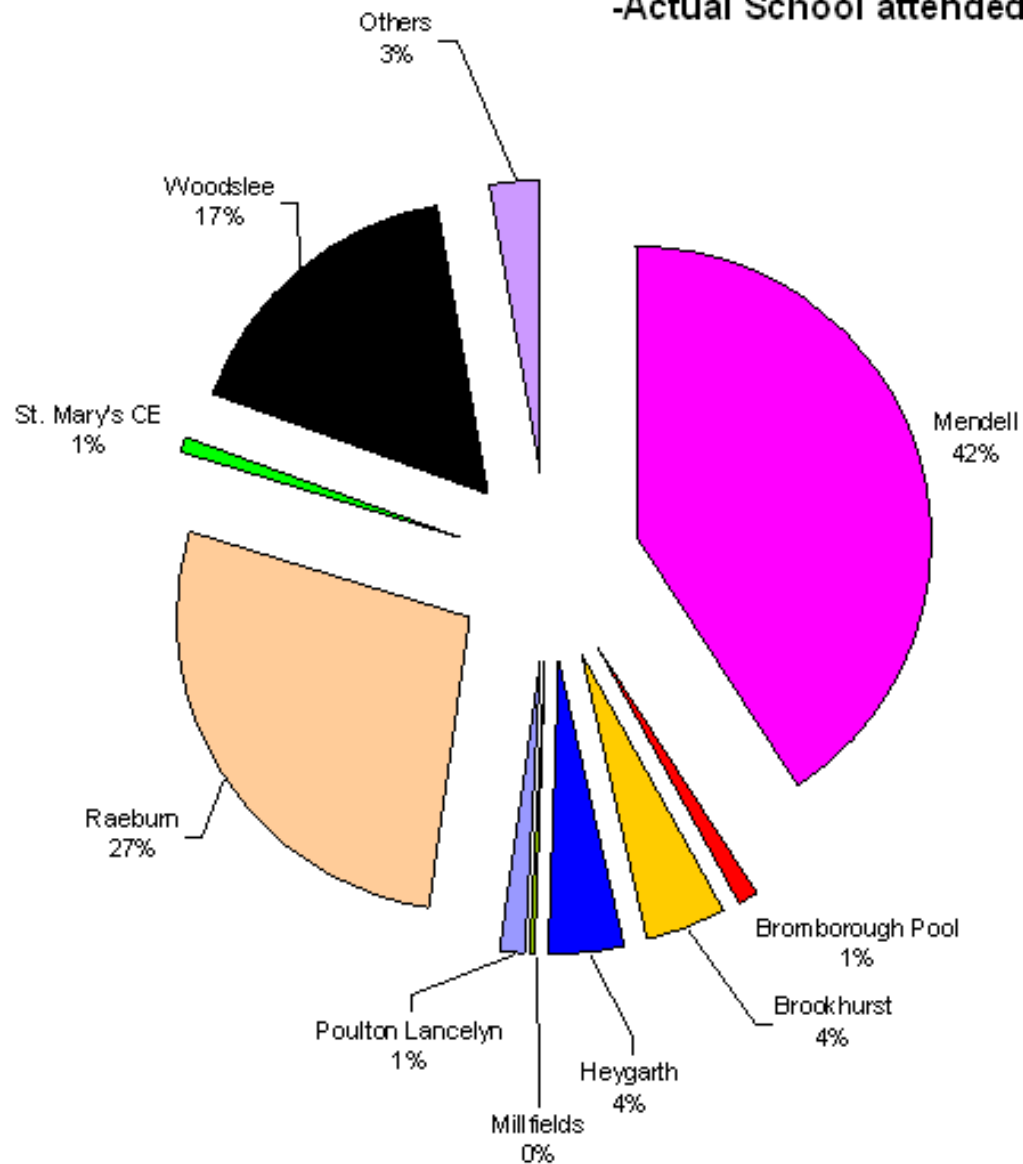
As at: January



N.O.R.

⊛ Total ■ Projected

Mendell Catchment Area -Actual School attended



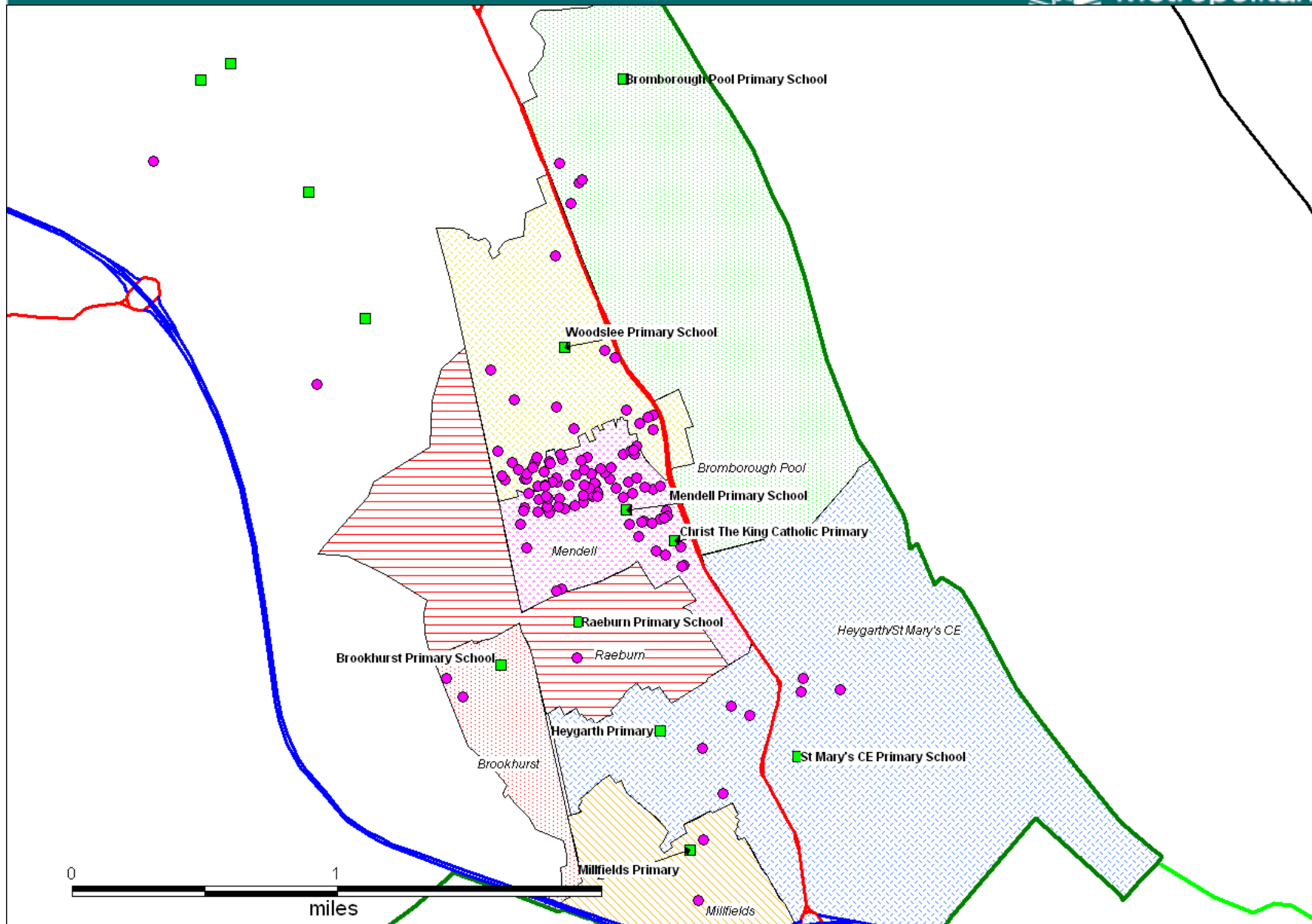
Total Community/CE pupils in catchment = 226

Number of pupils by school	(Reflux)
Mendell	92
Raeburn	62 (2)
Woodslee	38 (37)
Brookhurst	10 (3)
Heygarth	9 (9)
Bromborough Pool	3 (4)
Poulton Lancelyn	3 (2)
Millfields	1 (2)
St Mary's CE	2
Others	6 (12)



What Ofsted said (2004)

- Standards are rising and pupils' achievements are good overall; they are very good in physical education, art and design and religious education.
- Provision in the Foundation Stage is good overall but the quality of teaching in the nursery is better than in the reception class.
- Children who are above average attainers are not always sufficiently challenged in the reception class in aspects of the science strand of knowledge and understanding of the world, and history throughout the school, and too few opportunities are provided for independent learning.
- The curriculum is very good and is very well enriched with visits and visitors.
- Not all subject co-ordinators monitor the quality of teaching and learning in their subjects.
- The headteacher knows her pupils and their families very well and pupils are very well cared for.
- The use of information and communication technology (ICT) and numeracy in other subjects is not as well developed as the use of literacy.
- Standards in spelling are not high enough.





Possible options for Bromborough and Eastham

- A Brookhurst
- B Bromborough Pool
- C Heygarth, St Mary's and Millfields
- D Mendell

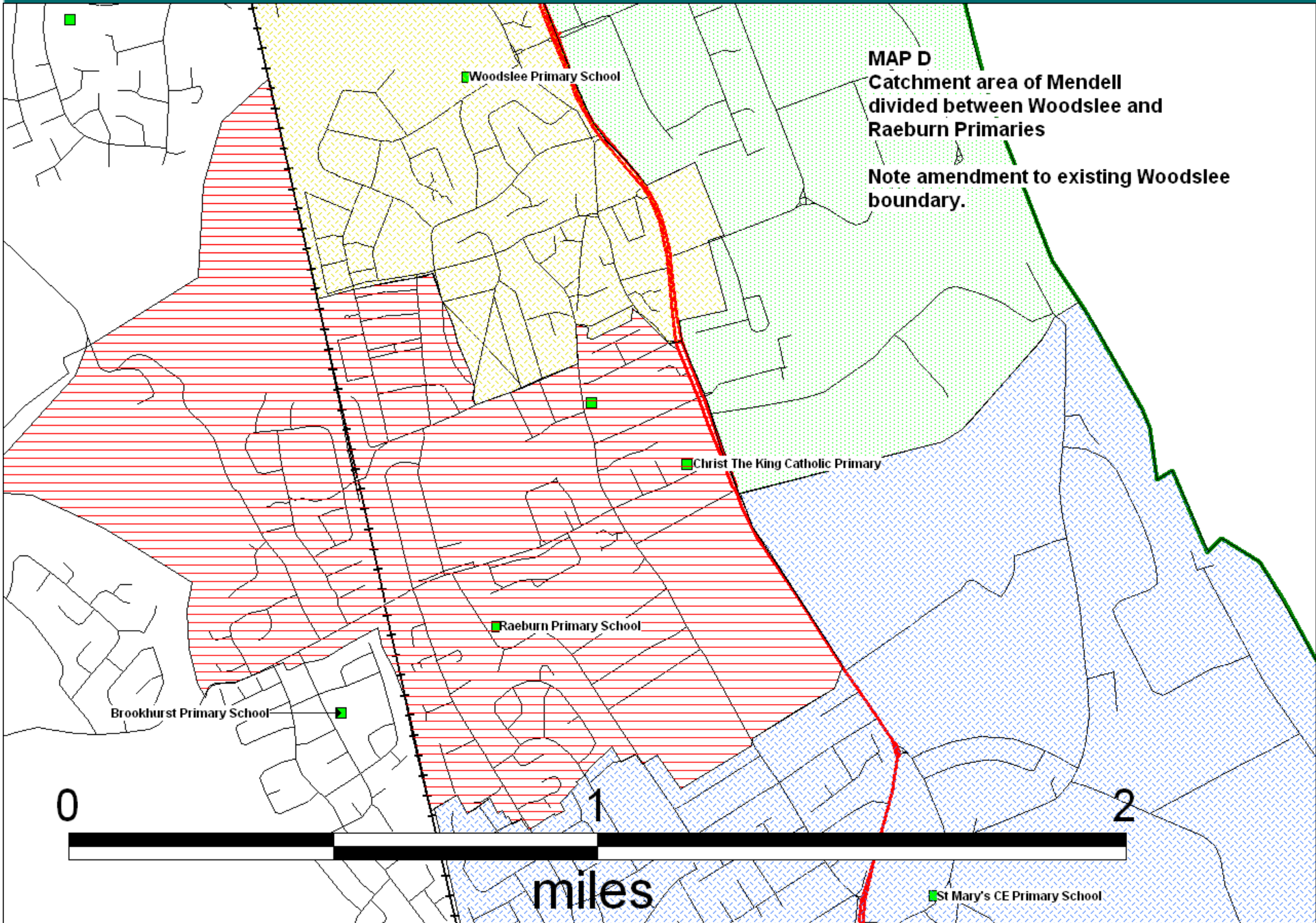


- Options involve all the schools in this area directly, except:
- Christ the King - only Catholic school in this area
- Raeburn – stable school with few surplus places – it may be indirectly affected by some of the options



D1 Closure of Mendell Primary

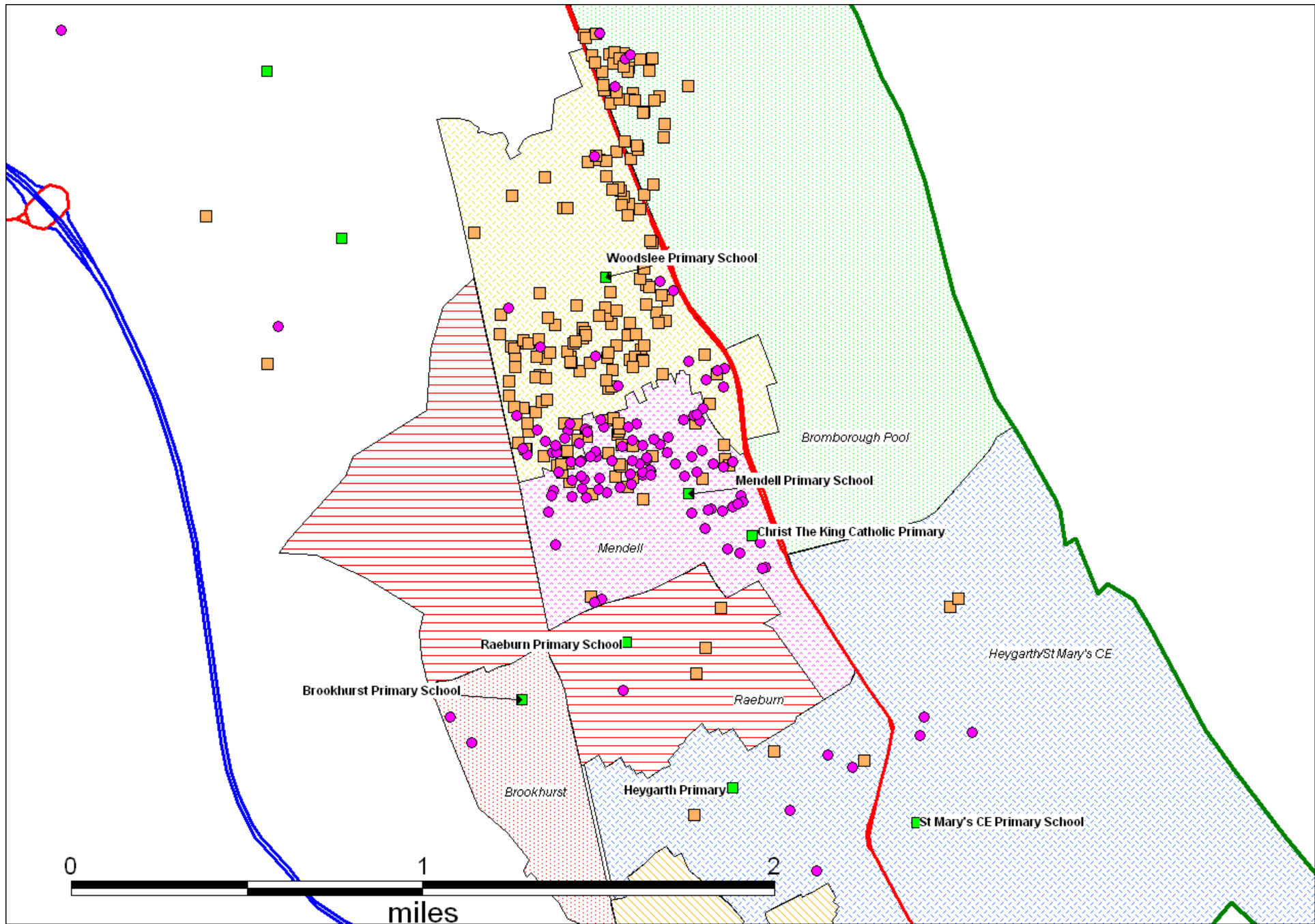
- Places for children at neighbouring schools
- Pupils from the catchment already attend Raeburn, Woodslee and others
- Improvements made to receiving schools
- May require two new classrooms at Raeburn





D2 – Amalgamate Mendell and Woodslee

- Pupils from the catchment already attend
Woodslee – overlap
- Less than a mile apart
- Requires 3 new classrooms at Woodslee OR
- 7 new classrooms at Mendell
- If sited at Woodslee, ties in current improvements





D3: Reduce admission number at Mendell

- Reduce admission number
- Reduces surplus places “on paper”
- Plan for playgroup on site
- Other possibilities for space
- Monitor situation



In any option

- **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 at same time so will have friends in their new school**
- **Enhancements to receiving schools**
- **Community/controlled catchment areas revised**
- **Staff redeployed**
- **Council decide future of any closed community site**

Earliest date for any option is September 2007



What happens next?

January/February 2006

Meetings for directly interested parties – parents, staff, governors

Anyone can write and say what they think

All comments/responses must be made by the beginning of March

March/April 2006

Report goes to Council's cabinet.

Council will decide which (if any) options should become statutory proposals.

If proposals are agreed, notices are published. Six week representation period begins.

Anyone can send written comments or objections.



What happens next?

May/June 2006

Representation period ends.

Proposals go to multi-representative Wirral School Organisation Committee.

- May approve
- May approve with changes
- May give conditional approval – for example, pending planning permission
- May reject

If the SOC cannot agree, proposals are referred to the Schools Adjudicator

September 2007

Earliest date for implementation of proposals.

It could take longer, if building work is required, for example.



Remember:

- No change is not an option
- A decision has not yet been made
- Things will be better - and fairer - afterwards
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- Funding stays in the overall schools budget
- We must find sensible and effective solutions to high levels of empty places, based on all the factors involved.



Stanton Road Primary School

Poulton Lancelyn Primary School

Woodslee Primary School

Mendell Primary School

Christ The King Catholic Primary

Raeburn Primary School

Brookhurst Primary School

Heygarth Primary

St Mary's CE Primary School