

Policy 6: Mobile Accommodation

Mobiles are temporary buildings used by schools to meet peaks in pupil numbers. Mobiles may refer to classrooms, laboratories, toilets or staff rooms.

Mobiles are designed for temporary use and are not a long-term solution for meeting growth in pupil numbers at individual schools. As temporary buildings, mobiles (particularly those owned by Denbighshire) do not generally accord with sustainable development objectives because of the higher maintenance costs and energy demands of such buildings. WAG and The Council recognise that inadequate buildings make improvements in standards of achievement more challenging (Estyn, *An Evaluation of Performance Before and An Evaluation of Performance of Schools Before and After Moving into New Buildings or Significantly Refurbished Premises*, 2007). The Council wants to reduce the number of mobiles currently in use as part of its aim to ensure that Denbighshire schools are fit for purpose.

However the Council does recognise that mobiles can have a valuable role to play in addressing temporary accommodation shortages in certain circumstances.

1. Mobile provision should only be made in the following circumstances:

- In an emergency (for example in the case of fire or flood) in which case mobile accommodation is provided until the permanent accommodation is reinstated.
- During building works so that the school can continue to function safely and effectively with minimum disruption to pupils. On completion of such works, the mobile accommodation should be removed.
- To meet a short or medium term increase in pupil numbers in areas of population growth where there is no spare capacity in an appropriate alternative school in the surrounding area. In such instances the mobile accommodation will be provided for an agreed time period, to be reviewed and/or removed at a certain date. If the increase in pupil numbers is set to be sustained then consideration will be taken by the authority as to whether permanent accommodation needs to be provided.

2. Mobile provision should not be provided in the following circumstances:

- To enable popular schools to expand to admit out of area children when there are places available in the local area schools
- Where schools are not currently over capacity and are not expected to be so in the short to medium term

3. In line with the Modernising Education Agenda:

- Mobile accommodation will be removed where its retention can no longer be justified according to the above principles.

- Officers will carry out a review of mobile accommodation in all schools and, where appropriate, contact schools and agree a programme of removal and/or replacement with permanent build.