

Cyngor Gwynedd: Draft Education Language Policy

1. Cyngor Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023 - 2033

Aim

We intend to create an inclusive strategy, with the primary aim of increasing opportunities for all residents in Gwynedd to see and use the Welsh language in a vast number of different contexts. By working on raising its status and increasing people's use of the language in all parts of their lives, we also hope to increase the motivation for others to learn the language. We will give specific attention to young people's use of the language in coming years, which include giving particular attention to their use of the Welsh Language with technology, showing them the value of the language as a skill for the world of work, and trying to increase the informal opportunities for them to use the Welsh language in their daily lives.

2. Cyngor Gwynedd's Revised Education Language Policy

The main aim of this Policy is to ensure that schools and Governors are aware of Cyngor Gwynedd's expectations for schools to comply with the expectations noted in the new system of categorising schools according to their linguistic provision. Schools and governing bodies are expected to be fully aware of the definitions included in the document when planning their educational provision.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/guidance-on-school-categories-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

This policy is part of a wider strategy by Cyngor Gwynedd to maintain the Welsh language and to promote bilingualism within the county.

As part of this policy, school Headteachers and Governors will be expected to intentionally plan to use and promote Welsh in all parts of the operation of schools in the county.

Objectives:

In implementing this policy, the school and governing body will ensure that:

- their school complies with the current Welsh Government definition of a Category 3 school and that the relevant information about the teaching medium in the school is clearly conveyed to the school's parents and prospective parents.
- every pupil has the appropriate language skills in both Welsh and English by the time they reach the end of their statutory education period.

- appropriate provision is available to enable every pupil to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context, schools are expected to continue to foster the skills of those pupils who are Welsh first language, and introduce Welsh to those who receive immersion education during whichever period this takes place.
- every pupil who is a latecomer and a new Welsh speaker is encouraged to attend Gwynedd's Immersion Education System.
- all of the county's education establishments reflect and reinforce the Language Policy and Language Standards where relevant, in their administration, social life and pastoral arrangements, as well as in their curricular **and extra-curricular** provision.

Pre-school education provision

All pre-school education settings will provide through the medium of Welsh.

Primary

Every primary school in Gwynedd is a Category 3 School or is working to achieve Category 3 School status in accordance with Welsh Government definitions for primary schools.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/guidance-on-school-categories-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

The aim of the Education Language Policy in the primary sector is to develop the ability of all pupils to be confident in both languages by the time they reach 11 years old, developing the linguistic skills of pupils and providing opportunities to **use them** in real and meaningful situations.

Welsh is the main medium of the education of pupils and the internal communication within Gwynedd's primary schools. Communication with parents and guardians will either be in Welsh or English, or bilingually, as required. Every school will have a strong Welsh ethos, which will support and enable the learners to use the Welsh language in all contexts in and outside the school.

Foundation Phase until the end of Year 2

Every pupil is taught **and assessed** through the medium of Welsh until the end of Year 2. **Schools will provide opportunities for pupils to use the Welsh language regularly, inside and outside the classroom, in a curricular and extra-curricular manner.**

Year 3 – Year 6

From year 3 onwards, in a context of fostering skills that are associated with full bilingualism, at least 80% of the pupil's educational activities (both curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.

The pupils' grasp of Welsh should continue to be developed, giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages. From year 3 onwards, English will be introduced as a subject and cross-curricular learning medium.

Cyngor Gwynedd is committed to providing an Intensive Immersion Course within the Immersion Education System. Schools are expected to ensure that all pupils (Years 2-6) who are latecomers and new Welsh speakers are referred to attend Gwynedd's Immersion Education System, for them to be able to follow the curriculum in full in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Language Policy.

Secondary

Every secondary school in Gwynedd is a Category 3 School or is working to achieve Category 3 School status in accordance with Welsh Government definitions for secondary schools.

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/guidance-on-school-categories-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

In all schools within this category, Welsh will be the main language of education for all pupils up to 16 years old (in accordance with the Welsh Government's definition of the statutory expectations for Category 3 Secondary schools).

The pupils' grasp of Welsh should continue to be developed, giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages. English will continue to be introduced as a subject and learning medium of some cross-curricular elements.

Cyngor Gwynedd is committed to providing an Intensive Immersion Course within the Immersion Education System. Schools are expected to ensure that all pupils (Years 7-9) who are latecomers and new Welsh speakers are referred to attend Gwynedd's Immersion Education System, for them to be able to follow the curriculum in full in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Language Policy. Schools will have appropriate linguistic provision for any learner arriving at the school as a latecomer in years 10 and 11.

Welsh will be the main language for internal communication. The school will communicate with parents and guardians either in Welsh, English or bilingually, as required. Every school

will have a strong Welsh ethos, supporting and allowing the learners to use the Welsh language in every social context in the school and outside the school.

3. Additional Learning Needs in the Mainstream and Special Schools

Children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN) receive an equal linguistic opportunity in accordance with this Policy.

The ALN and Tribunal Wales Act (2018) must be considered when interpreting this policy. Where Additional Learning Provision is noted within an Individual Development Plan with use of a specific method of communication and intervention, this provision must be secured, in keeping with any specialist advice. The Equality Act must also be considered

4. Welsh Language Progress Plans (Individual Schools)

Each school and Governing body will be expected to present their Welsh Language development priorities in the Welsh Language Progress Plan. This Plan will be agreed with Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government in accordance with the WESP Outcomes.

The Government's documentation emphasises that the percentages noted in the definition of Category 3 Schools are a minimum.