

Appendix 5

Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee Additional Questions 10-4-25

1. How have you assessed the operational force of the wording of the new Language Policy to ensure that it sets a procedure and criteria that schools are required to comply with?

Following a request from Gwynedd schools' headteachers during the engagement process in the context of amending the Language Policy, a concise document was specifically requested. To this end, therefore, we have drawn up a concise and robust document which outlines the aims of the policy in every phase of a child's statutory education. The policy sets a specific procedure and criteria for schools to comply with. In addition, we have drawn a one-page policy specifically for school staff to provide a quick overview of the policy's aims and objectives.

2. How will you monitor that children act in accordance with the new Language Policy?

It is the responsibility of the schools' Governing bodies to ensure that they comply with Cyngor Gwynedd's policies in the education field. Cyngor Gwynedd will gather data from schools regarding their compliance with this policy annually. Each school and Governing body will present their Welsh language development priorities to the Secondary/Primary Cluster Development Plan. This Plan will be agreed with Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government in accordance with the WESP Outcomes, as well as monitor it.

In this context, and when considering the Government's wider plans to monitor these developments, it is noted in the Government's guidance:

Individual school development plans are used by Estyn to provide context before inspection and monitoring visits. Ensuring that school plans to increase the Welsh language provision is included in the School Development Plan means that the school's linguistic context and development can be noted and considered correctly as part of Estyn's monitoring processes. This will become even more relevant as Estyn tries to give more attention to assessing the wide range of experiences available for learners in Welsh as part of its assessment framework.