

Task and Finish Group Recommendations

Cyngor Gwynedd: Draft Education Language Policy

1. Cyngor Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023 - 2033

Aim ~~This policy is consistent with Cyngor Gwynedd's Language Strategy:~~

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 the 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 focus specifically on young people's use of the language in coming years, including 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 the~~ **This Policy is to ensure** ~~provides guidance to schools and Governors governing bodies are aware of on the expectations in relation to the language of education in Gwynedd. by Cyngor Gwynedd for schools to comply with the expectations set out 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.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/canllawiau-ar-gategoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg.pdf> ~~are aware of the~~
Governors is to ensure that ~~P~~

~~This policy is part of~~ **The aim of the policy is to make a vast contribution to a wider strategy by Cyngor Gwynedd to maintain and empower the Welsh language and promote bilingualism** ~~within the county.~~

As part of this policy, school ~~H~~headteachers and ~~G~~governors ~~will be expected to~~ will plan purposefully 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~~ **provides Welsh-medium Education in accordance with the direction in this**

policy and that the relevant information about the teaching medium in the school is clearly conveyed to the school's parents and prospective parents.

- that every pupil has the appropriate language skills in Welsh ~~and English~~ by the time they reach the end of their statutory education period.
- ~~that appropriate provision is available to enable every pupil to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context,~~ schools ~~will be 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.
- that every pupil who is a latecomer and a new Welsh speaker ~~will be encouraged to~~ will attend Gwynedd's Immersion Education System
- that 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~~.

Pre-school education provision

The importance of this formative period is the opportunity to introduce the Welsh language – vocabulary and language patterns – in a naturally informal way, immersing through play, every child from all backgrounds throughout the county.

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

The result of this will be to give children a firm grasp of the Welsh language, which will help and provide them with a foundation when starting their statutory Foundation Phase education.

Primary

Every primary school in Gwynedd (with the exception of Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes, which will progress to being a Category 3 School) ~~is a~~ Category 3 School ~~or progressing to become a Category 3 School~~ in accordance with Welsh Government definitions for primary schools.

<https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/canllawiau-ar-gategoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg.pdf>

The aim of the Education Language Policy in the primary sector is to develop the ability of all pupils to be confident in the Welsh language ~~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 will be the ~~the main~~ medium of pupil education and internal communication in Gwynedd 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

Welsh will be the pupils' medium of education, assessment and extra-curricular activities 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

Welsh will be the medium of at least 80% of pupils' medium of education, assessment and extra-curricular activities from year 3 to the end of 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 when English is introduced as the medium of written tasks in specific units of work determined by the school in order to develop skills in English across the curriculum.

Cyngor Gwynedd is committed to providing an Intensive Immersion Course within the Immersion Education System. Schools ~~will be 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

Welsh will be the medium of at least 80% of pupils' medium of education, assessment and extra-curricular activities in Gwynedd secondary schools (with the exception of Ysgol Friars and Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn which will progress to this). 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.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/canllawiau-ar-gategoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg.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).~~ except in the case of English as a subject

and when English is introduced as a means of written tasks in specific units of work determined by the school in order to develop skills in English across the curriculum.

~~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 ~~will be 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 can provide in an appropriately linguistic manner for any learner arriving at the school as a latecomer in years 10 and 11.~~

Welsh will be the ~~main~~ language of 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 learners to use the Welsh language in every social context in the school and outside the school.

3. Additional Learning Needs in Mainstream and Special Schools

Children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN) receive ~~linguistic~~ equal opportunities to receive Welsh language education in accordance with this Policy. ~~The ALN and Welsh Tribunal Act (2018) must have due regard in interpreting this policy. Where Additional Learning Provision is set out in a Development Plan in a specific language medium for the communication and intervention, consideration must be given to putting that in place, and accompanied by expert advice. The Equality Act must be addressed as well.~~

4. Welsh Language Progression Plans (Individual Schools)

All schools should strive to realise meaningful and measurable progress in Welsh language education provision over time and submit them ~~Each school and Governing body will be expected to present their Welsh Language development priorities~~ to the Welsh Language Progression Plan. This Plan will be agreed with Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government in accordance with the WESP Outcomes.

~~It is emphasised in the Government's documentation that the percentages noted in the definition of Category 3 Schools are a minimum.~~