

CYNGOR GWYNEDD: LANGUAGE POLICY OF EDUCATION IN GWYNEDD SCHOOLS.

Introduction:

This document consists of two parts:

1. Draft of Cyngor Gwynedd's Model Education Language Policy (2025).
2. Guidance for headteachers and governors of schools in the county regarding meeting the requirement by Cyngor Gwynedd and the Welsh Government, under the conditions of *the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025*, for each governing body to provide a School Education Language Policy together with a Welsh Language Education Delivery Plan. Cyngor Gwynedd's strong recommendation would be that all schools in the county use the wording of Cyngor Gwynedd's Model Education Language Policy. That would meet the requirement in the new law for all governing bodies to pay due attention to the local authority's Education Language Policy when drawing up their Welsh Language Education Delivery Plan. Cyngor Gwynedd's role will be to approve each governing body's Welsh Language Education Delivery Plan and then monitor its implementation.

Context:

Cyngor Gwynedd's Language Strategy 2023-2033:

Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Language Policy is a core part of Cyngor Gwynedd's Language Strategy and is in line with the strategy's central priority, which is to maintain and empower the Welsh language. The aim of this policy is to ensure that all pupils in Gwynedd, by the end of their period of statutory education, have sound skills in Welsh and English. This will ensure the prosperity of the Welsh language in the communities of the County and ensure pupils of Gwynedd step confidently into a multilingual world.

The aim of the wider policy is to create an inclusive strategy with the main aim of increasing opportunities for all residents of Gwynedd to see and use the Welsh language in a wide range of different contexts. By working on raising the status and increasing people's use of the language in all parts of their lives, we will increase the incentive for others to learn the language. We want to pay particular attention to young people's language use over the coming years, including highlighting their use of Welsh with technology, showing them the value of the language as a skill in the world of work, and increasing the informal opportunities for them to use Welsh in their daily lives.

1: Cyngor Gwynedd's Education Language Policy (2025)

1.1: Pre-school provision

Welsh will be the medium of education in all pre-school settings in the County. This formative period is essential to introduce the Welsh language through play and through natural experiences, creating a solid foundation for children to use and acquire the language.

1.2: Primary Schools

All primary schools in Gwynedd except for a *transitional school will provide 'Primarily Welsh Language' education, which according to the current definition, corresponds to Category 3 schools

Foundation Phase up to Year 2:

- Welsh will be the only medium of education, assessment, and extra-curricular activities for pupils.
- Sustained and purposeful opportunities for pupils to use Welsh within lessons, across the wider school environment, and in social contexts will be provided.

Provision for New Speakers:

- Schools will ensure that new speakers from Year 2 onwards access the Immersion Regime, supporting their full engagement with the curriculum

Years 3–6:

- A minimum of 80% of all pupils' education, assessment, and extra-curricular activities will be delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- English will be delivered as a subject, and as a medium for certain tasks in specific work units determined by the school, in accordance with the school's Delivery Plan.

Provision for New Speakers:

- Pupils who are new speakers (Year 3 – Year 6) will be referred to the Gwynedd Immersion System to ensure full access to the curriculum.

Welsh is the main language of internal communication in Gwynedd's primary schools. Communication with parents and carers will be conducted in Welsh or bilingually, as required

Every school will have a Welsh ethos.

1.3: Secondary Schools

All secondary schools in Gwynedd except for two *transitional schools will provide 'Primarily Welsh Language' education which, according to the current definition, corresponds to Category 3 schools

- A minimum of 80% of all pupils' education, assessment, and extra-curricular activities will be delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- English will be delivered as a subject, and as a medium for certain tasks in specific work units determined by the school, in accordance with the school's Delivery Plan.

Provision for New Speakers:

- Pupils who are new speakers (Year 7 – Year 9) will be referred to the Gwynedd Immersion System to ensure full access to the curriculum.
- The schools will provide appropriate support for new speakers arriving in Years 10 and 11, in accordance with the School Delivery Plan.
- Welsh is the main language of internal communication in Gwynedd secondary schools. Communication with parents and carers will be conducted in Welsh or bilingually, as required

Every school will have a Welsh ethos.

1.4: Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Learners with ALN will receive an equal linguistic opportunity to receive education through the medium of Welsh in accordance with this policy. The provision set out in each Individual Development Plan (IDP) will be implemented in the appropriate medium, in full compliance with the Additional Learning Needs and Tribunal for Wales Act (2018) and the Equality Act (2010).

*Transitional Schools:

Primary: Ysgol Ein Harglwyddes, Bangor

Secondary: Ysgol Friars, Bangor and Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn

A detailed discussion will take place with these three specific schools, to increase provision through the medium of Welsh. Our long-term goal is for every school in Gwynedd to become a Primarily Welsh Language School, in accordance with the latest legislation. Cyngor Gwynedd will support these schools in achieving this goal.

