

**WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN  
2017 – 2020**

**DRAFT**

**November 2017  
Final Version**

## **Foreword**

Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 (“2013 Act”) requires that every local authority produces a strategic plan on Welsh in education.

Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 (“2013 Act”) requires that every local authority produces a strategic plan on Welsh in education.

This 3-year strategic plan aims to develop Welsh-language skills within the education provision in Denbighshire and contribute towards the wider policy context and priorities as indicated by the Welsh Government in its strategies:

- Rewriting the future:  
<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/deprivation/rewriting-the-future-schools/?skip=1&lang=en>
- Successful futures;  
<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/why-we-are-changing/successful-futures/?skip=1&lang=en>
- Future generations;  
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?skip=1&lang=en>

This plan will be targeted at improving communication skills and oral understanding. The skills developed during the early years will improve progression in the Welsh language and establish a foundation that will lead to normalising the use of the Welsh language among the children and young people of Denbighshire.

Achieving this plan will contribute towards the vision for Denbighshire’s Welsh Language Strategy 2017 – 2022, which includes increasing the use of the language among young people by ensuring access to education and community activities through the medium of Welsh and promoting opportunities for social interaction in Welsh.

-----

## **Draft Plan 2017 – 2020**

### **Long term vision and commitment:**

We wish to see every child and young person in Denbighshire leaving full-time education being competent and confident in Welsh and English.

#### Objectives:

- Ensure the development of adequate Welsh-language places across the county.
- Support the increase in Welsh-language communication skills and oral understanding in every early years location.
- Increase the proportion and standard of Welsh taught in English-medium schools.
- Increase the proportion of learners who study Welsh as a first language.
- Improve achievement in Welsh and in subjects through the medium of Welsh at every key stage in every school.
- Develop a sustainable workforce to support provision in the future.

#### Statement:

In this plan, we have set ambitious targets for Denbighshire and our partners. These include increasing achievement in Welsh across every key stage, increasing the proportion of Welsh that is taught, the proportion of learners who receive A\* - C grades in Welsh First Language GCSE and develop the skills of the workforce.

We have included the objectives of the Rewriting the Future strategy in this plan. Our intention is to ensure through the 21st Century Schools programme that there is sufficient capacity to ensure that Welsh-medium education is accessible across the county. Our objectives also support a seamless transition from home or childcare settings to Early Years education, continuity from school to school and challenging the underachievement of learners.

This plan focuses on establishing strong foundations by improving communication and oral understanding by starting with pre-school settings, targeting the strengthening of the language within primary schools and improving continuity at every key stage. This shows how we have incorporated the recommendations of the Successful Futures strategy within this plan.

The Welsh in Education Strategic Group will support and monitor the implementation of this plan against the agreed objectives. To coincide with this, every school in the county will be expected to include their achievement against the outcomes in this plan in their Governors' Annual Report to parents. Specific training will be given to governors.

This plan is currently in draft form and is subject to approval by the Denbighshire County Council Cabinet and the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and the Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013.

Local authorities have a statutory obligation under Part 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh.

Denbighshire County Council provides transport to the closest school that provides Welsh-medium education, even if that school is not the closest eligible school. For this purpose, such a school provides over 70% of its education through the medium of Welsh at primary age or where over 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh at secondary age. In September 2016, within Denbighshire, these schools are as follows:

Primary:

- Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch
- Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch
- Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy
- Ysgol Bro Elwern
- Ysgol Carreg Emlyn
- Ysgol Dewi Sant
- Ysgol Gymraeg y Gwernant
- Ysgol Henllan
- Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd
- Ysgol Pantpastynog
- Ysgol Pen Barras
- Ysgol Pentrecelyn
- Ysgol Tremeirchion
- Ysgol Twm o'r Nant
- Ysgol y Llys

Secondary:

- Ysgol Brynhyfryd
- Ysgol Dinas Bran
- Ysgol Glan Clwyd

Please note, if the closest Welsh-medium provision is outside Denbighshire, transport will be provided in accordance with the above policy, which is to the closest appropriate provision.

## Outcome 1: More seven-year old children educated through the medium of Welsh

The current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
303 of 1123 pupils 26.98%	333 of 1145 29.09%	279 of 1046 26.67%	306 of 1085 28.2%

### Main objectives:

- Achieve current capital projects by 2020 and develop suggestions that provide room for growth in terms of the number of pupils who wish to access Welsh-medium education.
- Develop and implement a programme to support schools to increase the use of the Welsh language within their curriculum provision by 2020.
- Launch a programme to provide oral communication through the medium of Welsh to every child aged 3 – 5 in every pre-school setting by 2020.
- Develop and implement a communications strategy to improve the availability and standard of the information that is available to parents and guardians by 2018.

### Supporting Statement:

The above targets reflect the fact that the 2020 seven-year-old pupils have already joined nursery class and, as a result, more challenging targets would not be achievable. Despite this, the aim is that over 30% of them will be in Welsh-language nursery provision by 2018, with an increase of 33% by 2020. Therefore, the work in this plan will affect the outcome target for 2021 and beyond.

Over the past 5 years, Denbighshire County Council has invested in Welsh-medium places at Ysgol y Llys (Prestatyn), Ysgol Twm o'r Nant (Denbigh) and Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy (Cynwyd). In addition, further capital investment has been agreed and included in Denbighshire County Council's Capital Plan and the 21st Century Schools programme in order to invest in Welsh-language facilities in the Ruthin area for Ysgol Penbarras and Ysgol Carreg Emlyn. As a result of the capital plans and the statutory offers that will be realised until 2020, there will be an increase in the number of Welsh-language places and a decrease in English-language places.

Denbighshire County Council will continue to monitor and measure the need for Welsh-language provision in order to ensure that there are sufficient places for the increase in the number of pupils and the development of 21st Century Schools projects. In September 2016, there were 2244 full-time Welsh-language primary places within the county with 2028 full-time pupils on the register. In order to increase the capacity in locations where there is less than 10% surplus places, we will develop additional capacity in these areas with finance available from Section 106 agreements. The effect on the closest Welsh-language provision is considered when calculating the contribution of nearby developments in accordance with Section 106 regulations. The Education and Children's Services will lead on offers to expand the provision with Section 106 receipts and these offers will be in accordance with the objectives of this strategic plan and the county's Language Strategy.

We will hold a review to measure the need to meet the requirements of the 2013 regulations. To coincide with this work, we will continue to work with Mudiad Meithrin in order to monitor the number of children in pre-school settings, transfers to primary schools and the number of Welsh-language pre-school places in the County.

Currently, 73% of places in primary schools offer less than 50% of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh where pupils are assessed as studying Welsh as a second language. We will develop criteria that will enable us to target support for schools to increase how much Welsh is taught as part of the primary learning path. Every school will have a timetable for progress that will include key milestones in their school development plans. GwE and Denbighshire County Council will monitor every school's curriculum development, the Urdd will provide support to develop extracurricular activities through the medium of Welsh and Mudiad Meithrin will support pre-school provision.

The findings of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 show that the current Welsh-language / bilingual provision is meeting parents' needs. The availability of Welsh-language provision varies with a lower percentage available in the north of the county, which matches the linguistic demographics of the county. For example, 23% of childminders in the north of the county speak Welsh or are bilingual, compared to 60% in the south of the county. The majority of the Welsh-language provision is pre-school or after-school provision or Cylch Meithrin. Through our capital projects in the Ruthin area, there will be room within new buildings that could be used to provide/expand pre-school care.

We will be developing and introducing an oral communication programme through the medium of Welsh to every child aged 3 – 5 in every childcare setting throughout Denbighshire. The programme will be developed in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin and will ensure that every nursery pupil will have basic oral skills and understanding at least by the time he/she is 5 years old. This will establish a strong skill base in the language and enable every school to improve achievement in the Welsh language. It will also provide a foundation for providing more of the foundation phase curriculum through the medium of Welsh in English-language settings.

We will improve the availability and standard of the information available to parents and guardians on Welsh in education. By working with partners including the Welsh Government, Mudiad Meithrin and Menter Iaith, we will review the current information that is available. This information will include information about the places that are available and the support that is available to pupils who are late arrivals. At the moment, the provision for late arrivals is provided on a peripatetic basis due to the varying geographical locations of the pupils who need support. When we have reviewed it, the information will be available through various platforms that will be recognised through a specific communications scheme. The communications strategy will be developed to ensure that the information reaches the appropriate audience. Following publication, we will monitor the suitability of the information by contacting nursery applicants and monitor the transfer from Cylch Meithrin settings, and we will continue to update and adapt the information to ensure that it remains current and relevant.

**Outcome 2: More pupils will continue to improve their Welsh-language skills when transferring from primary school to secondary School**

The current situation *	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
21.3% - 254 out of 1194	22%	23%	25%

\* Percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh as a First Language across the County at the end of Year 9.

**Main objectives:**

- Increasing the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh as a First language across the County at the end of Year 9 to 25% by 2020.
- Increasing the number who transfer from KS2 to KS3 to 98% by 2020.
- Increasing the number of primary places that teach over 20% of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh to 40% by 2020.
- Increasing the proportion of teaching through the medium of Welsh in the foundation phase to over 50% by 2020 in schools that already teach between 20% and 50% of the whole curriculum through the medium of Welsh.

**Supporting statement:**

The Welsh Government's vision announced in its strategy 'Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers' presents the intention to move away from the concept of Welsh as a second language and for Welsh to be taught as one language. In response to this vision, in order to increase the number of pupils assessed in Welsh as a First Language at the end of year 9, we will work with Brynhyfryd and Dinas Bran schools in order to introduce the concept of Welsh as one subject and increase the number of children assessed in Welsh as a first language. As part of this work, we will look at the feasibility of establishing supportive intervention provision at Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran. It is predicted that the provision will be a formal procedure within the two schools to support pupils that are assessed in Welsh as a First Language at the end of KS2 and who experience difficulties continuing to study through the medium of Welsh. In addition to this, there will be an opportunity for more able and talented second-language pupils to take advantage of further assistance to follow a Welsh as a First Language course.

In September 2016, 90% of pupils transferred from Welsh-language provision in KS2 to Welsh-language provision in KS3 within Denbighshire. This is a reduction of 7% compared to 2015. We intend to increase the number of pupils transferring to Welsh-language provision in KS3 by working with every secondary school that has Welsh-language provision in order to plan the transfers. As part of this work, we will monitor and analyse the number of pupils who continue in Welsh-language provision when transferring from KS2 to KS3 in order to set appropriate targets on an individual school level. We will also look at the information that is available during the school admissions process. To coincide with the activity, the Language Charter data will be used to show the gaps in opportunities for children and young

people to use the Welsh language socially and we will work with partners to target activities in these areas for pupils in years 5 to 8.

Currently, 69% of English-language primary school places in Denbighshire provide less than 20% of education through the medium of Welsh. We will know which schools have the capacity to increase the education provided through the medium of Welsh by 2020 and will target the support for individual schools in order to increase how much Welsh is taught on the timetable agreed by the school. Milestones will be incorporated within the schools' development plans with the aim of ensuring that 40% of primary places will provide over 20% of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh by 2020.

At the schools where Welsh is used as the teaching medium for between 20% and 50% of the whole primary curriculum (Ysgol Dyffryn Iâl, Ysgol Caer Drewyn, Ysgol Carrog and Ysgol Bryn Clwyd), we will provide support to enable these schools to provide more of the Foundation Phase through the medium of Welsh by 2020. By collaborating with GwE, we will agree a timetable with every school and incorporate key milestones in the school development plans.

The capital project at Ysgol Glan Clwyd will ensure that there are adequate Welsh-language secondary places for pupils who live in the north of the county. This project will ensure that there are 1250 places at Ysgol Glan Clwyd in order to support the proposed increase in need.



**Outcome 3: More students between 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh**

**Outcome 4: More students between 14-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning.**

The current situation and targets associated with the percentage of learners who register to study the Welsh (First Language) GCSE and who registered to study at least five further qualifications through the medium of Welsh are seen below:

The current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100% 216 pupils (2016)	100%	100%	100%

The current situation and targets associated with the percentage of learners who register to study the Welsh (First Language) GCSE and who registered to study at least five further qualifications through the medium of Welsh are seen below:

The current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
100% 216 pupils (2016)	100%	100%	100%

**Main objectives:**

- Increase the number of Year 11 learners who study 5 subjects or more through the medium of Welsh to 260 pupils by 2020;
- An increase of 25% in the number of pupils at Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran who are studying 5 or more subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- Maintain and develop the Welsh-language vocational options across the County.
- Increase the percentage of learners between 16 – 19 who study 2 subjects or more through the medium of Welsh in schools to 22% by 2020.
- Use the schools' data results to respond to and improve Welsh-language education provision.
- Arrange at least 30 Welsh-language courses annually in formal partnership until 2020;

**Supporting Statement:**

The three schools within Denbighshire that provide Welsh-medium education are Ysgol Glan Clwyd, Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran. The pupils of Ysgol Glan Clwyd study all their subjects through the medium of Welsh. There is a Welsh stream at Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran (See the data appendix for more information about the number who are studying through the medium of Welsh).

The objective stated in outcome 2, namely to start presenting the Welsh language as a subject for pupils who attend Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran, will enable more students to follow subjects through the medium of Welsh. This will enable both schools to ensure the viability of their current Welsh-language GCSE choices and give the opportunity to increase the number of Welsh-language GCSE courses that are available in the future.

The number of learners between 16 - 19 who study two subjects or more through the medium of Welsh has varied over the past four years from 11.3% to 21.4% depending on the size of the group and individuals' choices. As a result of the variation and the challenge of maintaining the current provision, an ambitious target has been set to increase the percentage of students who study 2 subjects or more through the medium of Welsh to 22% by 2020. In this context, a target to increase and maintain the number of learners to over 230 has been set.

In partnership with the GwE challenge advisers, we intend to monitor schools' outcomes in order to encourage additional challenges and support in order to improve Welsh-language education provision.

The majority of post-16 Welsh-language courses are provided at Ysgol Glan Clwyd. Every course at Ysgol Glan Clwyd is provided through the medium of Welsh with some courses offered at Ysgol Brynhyfryd depending on need. We intend to maintain the current offer of a minimum of 30 Welsh-language courses every year in formal partnership until 2020. We also intend to continue to work with Coleg Llandrillo, Coleg Cambria and Ysgol Brynhyfryd to offer more opportunities for students to continue with post-16 Welsh-language education.

### Outcome 5: More students with higher skills in Welsh

First Language	Y sefyllfa gyfredol	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Foundation Phase Outcome 5	91.9%	92%	92.5%	93%
Key Stage 2 Level 4+	90.6%	91%	91.5%	92%
Key Stage 3 Level 5+	92.5%	93%	93.5%	94%
Key Stage 4 Grades A* - C	73.6%	74%	74.5%	75%

#### Main objectives:

- Increase the achievement in Welsh as a first language as follows by 2020.
  - 93% of Foundation Phase pupils achieving outcome 5.
  - 92% of Key Stage 2 pupils to achieve Level 4 +
  - 94% of Key Stage 3 pupils to achieve Level 5 +
  - 75% of Key Stage 4 pupils to achieve A\* - C.
- Ensure that achievement in Welsh as a second language is 60% A\* - C by 2020.
- Improve Welsh-language oral skills and understanding across all key stages by 2020.

#### Supporting Statement:

The authority has undertaken to maintain and improve the level of Welsh as a first language across all the key stages. The targets set are ambitious for every measure and are based on the strong development seen up to 2016. We will work with GwE to earmark schools that need additional support in order to improve achievement. Additional support will be provided to provide the curriculum by GwE, appropriate experts and extra-curricular support by partners.

The authority has committed to improve achievement in Welsh as a second language. In 2016, 72.1% of learners achieved A\* - C in the full Welsh second language GCSE course and 52% achieved A\* - C in the short Welsh second language GCSE course. The target of 60% A\* - C is challenging given the increase in the students who will be following the course by 2020 due to the fact that WJEC has cancelled the short Welsh second language GCSE course. In 2016, 53% of students in English-language settings were studying the short course.

Oral Welsh skill levels at every key stage will be improved by:

- Developing centres within schools that will maintain a support network for nearby schools to develop Welsh-medium activities.
- Working with the Urdd to target the provision of activities through the medium of Welsh outside school hours in areas that are revealed by the language charter data.
- Working with the Urdd to target extra-curricular activities in English-medium schools that increase how much Welsh is used as part of the school's curriculum.
- Facilitate community activities such as social events and Welsh lessons for adults.

The Council has an agreement with the Urdd to provide Welsh-language Youth Services in the County via a service level agreement. As a result, the Urdd has a leading role in the County in terms of supporting informal use of the language. The action plan recognises the role of other organisations in supporting the informal use of the language including the County Youth Forum, Schools, Menter Iaith, Young Farmers' Clubs and Sport Clubs. One of the action plan's priorities will be to avoid the duplication of activities in certain areas in order to ensure participation.

## **Outcome 6: Welsh-medium Additional Learning Needs Provision**

### Main objectives:

- Evaluate the Welsh-medium additional learning needs (ALN) provision in order to note any gaps annually until 2020.
- Develop flexible outreach provision to support more learners within mainstream provision.
- Develop the linguistic skills of language staff to respond to the changes in need.
- Facilitate opportunities to learn and socialise through the medium of Welsh within Ysgol Tir Morfa and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn.

### Supporting statement:

Denbighshire County Council has committed to ensuring that children and young people with ALN receive equal language support through the medium of Welsh. The capacity of the current service will be assessed annually and we will tackle any gaps that are noted in the provision. Patterns will be monitored and where there are any gaps that are being bridged at the moment, long-term solutions will be developed.

Denbighshire County Council has committed to ensuring that students in mainstream Welsh-medium provision will receive the same level of support through the medium of Welsh as that given in mainstream English provision. We will explore ways of developing this support further within mainstream provision in order to respond to the needs of individual learners.

Individual learners need staff who support them to gain the appropriate language skills. We will develop the language skills of staff in specialist locations to enable them to respond to changes in need.

We will collaborate with partners to facilitate the links between schools and to support opportunities to learn and socialise for learners with additional learning needs. Partners will work with Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn and Ysgol Tir Morfa to improve the use of Welsh within the context of the Welsh ethos of the schools.

## **Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuous professional development (CPD)**

Main objectives:

- Note the current gaps and gaps in the future from the perspective of the Council, schools, and in terms of the support needed from GwE.
- Target the development of the current workforce's skills.
- Create opportunities to develop the skills of Education and Children's Services staff.
- Target the development of skills in the school development strategies within the context of improving standards.

Supporting statement:

We will hold an inspection of Welsh-language skills in order to earmark current gaps in skills and where gaps are likely to appear in the future. Changes in how much Welsh is taught in English-language schools will affect the skills needs of staff and the language support needed from GwE and the Council.

Access to the Welsh sabbatical scheme will be targeted at priority areas as stated in outcomes 1 to 6 of this strategic plan. As schools increase how much Welsh is taught, training such as the sabbatical scheme will be used strategically to support the development of the skills of teachers and teaching assistants.

We will create opportunities to develop Welsh-language skills within the Education and Children's Services and by implementing the Council's language mentor programme under the Language Strategy. Staff who speak Welsh will mentor learners to help them practice and become confident when speaking Welsh. This will allow the staff to develop their skills and ensure that the service maintains the Council's Welsh standards.

We will work with schools to incorporate the development of staff skills in every school development plan. This will enable every school to receive a specific target for developing Welsh-language skills based on their current skill level that is achievable and accountable. This will also enable schools to increase how much Welsh is taught in order to have a measurable indicator to support the strategic objective. School governors will also receive training on this strategic plan and be encouraged to include the Welsh language in their annual report to parents.