

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER 2022 – AUGUST 2032

OVERVIEW

Section 84 of *The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013* requires a local authority to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and outlines that a Plan must contain:

- a. A local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to:
 - i. Improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh in its area;
 - ii. Improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;
- b. The local authority's targets for improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;
- c. Report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous Plan or previous revised Plan.

CYMRAEG 2050

Cymraeg 2050 introduces a long-term vision for a Wales where the Welsh language thrives. The strategy aims to increase:

- the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050 and,
- ensure that the percentage of the population that speaks Welsh daily, and can speak more than just a few words of Welsh, increases from 10% (in 2013–15) to 20% by 2050.

The Council's WESP will need to demonstrate how Newport will contribute to achieving this goal.

REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

Guidance for Local Authorities on the preparation of new 10-year WESPs was issued earlier this year, and the key points to note are as follows:

- Local authorities must prepare and submit their agreed plan to Welsh Government for approval by no later than 31st January 2022;
- Local authorities will be expected to carry out consultation on the plan for no less than 8 weeks;
- The 10-year target outlining the expected increase in Year 1 children taught through the medium of Welsh must be within a range that is prescribed by Welsh Government;
- Local authorities must prepare their plans around a set of seven prescribed outcomes determined by Welsh Government;
- Local authorities are required to submit annual updates on the progress of their plans to Welsh Government.

NEWPORT'S 10-YEAR VISION

The overarching vision for the Welsh Language in Newport is that “everyone in Newport can use, see and hear Welsh as a living language in all parts of life across the City”. This is embodied by the phrase “**See, Hear, Learn, Use, Love**”.

Newport is a Welsh city, with a Welsh identity but with a diverse range of multi-cultural and multilingual communities, and it is important to increase awareness that the Welsh language is one of Wales’ treasures. It is something that defines us as a people and is increasingly an integral part of our everyday lives. The long-term aspiration of the Council is to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Newport, and to raise awareness, increase the visibility, and promote the economic benefits of the Welsh language across the diverse communities in the city by increasing opportunities for those with all levels of Welsh to practice and speak Welsh in a safe, friendly and supportive environment, and to engage with those who might have no awareness of the language.

As outlined, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 require Local Authorities to set a 10-year target outlining the expected increase in Year 1 children who are taught through the medium of Welsh in the local authority's area during the lifespan of a Plan. However, this 10-year target must be within a range that is prescribed by Welsh Government. Newport has been placed in group 4 and therefore needs a minimum 6 percentage point increase within the 10-year period. This is quantified below (the 2032 target is based on our current pupil cohort):

PLASC Year	Cohort	Percentage of cohort	Number of Year 1 Pupils
2021 Baseline	1988	5.1	101
2032 Target	1988	11.1	221

As of September 2020, there were 112 Year 1 Welsh-medium places available across Newport. The minimum additionality therefore currently equates to 109 pupil places by 2032. 60 of these additional places will eventually be provided through Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli which opens in September 2021 and will increase the number of Welsh-medium primary school places available across the City by 54%.

Officers are currently considering options to bring forward a proposal to create a further 30 Welsh-medium primary school places per year group from September 2026 at the latest in the West of the City. It is envisaged that this could be funded through Welsh Government’s second Welsh-medium Capital Grant. It is intended that the shortfall against the minimum target, estimated at a further 30 Year 1 pupil places, will be factored into future discussions regarding new developer-led schools and Band C of the 21st Century Schools programme. These details have not been quantified and will likely emerge in the second half of this WESP period, from 2027 onwards, and will be reflected in the Local Development Plan that will be in place to cover this period.

As a result of this planned expansion in Welsh-medium primary provision by 2032 the Council aims to offer at least 232 Year 1 places across 6 primary school locations, more than doubling the provision that currently exists. This will be supplemented by increased early years and childcare opportunities through the medium of Welsh.

This ambition will also extend into the secondary sector, as the planned significant increase in primary provision will inevitably require a similar increase in secondary provision. This will be considered in the second half of the plan and is included within the Council’s intention to review all secondary school provision across the City as part of Band C of the 21st Century Schools Programme. This programme is likely to commence in 2024.

OUTCOME AREAS

Outcome Area	Current Position	5-Year Target	10-Year Target
<p><i>Outcome 1 – More nursery children / three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh</i></p>	<p>There are currently 112 part-time nursery places available across Newport (increasing to 160 from September 2021).</p> <p>One non-maintained setting is able to offer nursery education, with another setting also able to offer this from September 2021.</p> <p>There are two Cylch Meithrin's in Newport, with a new provision due to open in September 2021. Latest data indicates a transition rate of 59% from meithrin provisions to Welsh-medium schools against a national average of 89.9%.</p> <p>There are two Welsh-medium Flying Start groups, with three new provisions planned to open in 2022. 50 children currently access Welsh-medium or bilingual funded places through the childcare offer.</p>	<p>The 5-year target outlined within this plan is for the number and % of 3 year old children receiving their education through the medium of Welsh to increase to 210 (8.6% of the cohort) by the 2026/27 academic year.</p>	<p>The overall targets within the 10-year plan are for the number and % of 3 year old children receiving their education through the medium of Welsh to increase to 271 (11.1% of the cohort) by the 2031/32 academic year.</p>

Outcome Area	Current Position	5-Year Target	10-Year Target
<i>Outcome 2 – More reception class children / five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh</i>	The January 2021 PLASC return confirmed that 113 Reception age pupils (5.7% of the cohort) are currently receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.	The 5-year target within this plan is for the number and % of 5 year old children receiving their education through the medium of Welsh to increase to 171 (8.6% of the cohort) by the 2026/27 academic year.	The overall target within the 10-year plan is for the number and % of 5 year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh to increase to 220 (11.1% of the cohort) by the 2031/32 academic year.
<i>Outcome 2 (cont) – More reception class children / five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh</i>		This will in-part be achieved through the opening and subsequent relocation of Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenlli. The Council is also currently considering options to bring forward a proposal through Welsh Government's second Welsh-medium Capital Grant to create a further 30 Welsh-medium primary school places per year group from September 2026 at the latest.	Whilst there is no decision at present around how this further additionality will be created post 2027, the Council is committed to increasing provision by 2031. This commitment will be factored into future discussions regarding new developer-led schools, Band C of the 21 st Century Schools programme and the Council's Local Development Plan.

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Outcome Area	Current Position	5-Year Target	10-Year Target
<p><i>Outcome 3 – More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another</i></p>	<p>Transition between Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools is very high (between 96% and 99% over the past three years) and close relationships have been established and embedded between the school communities.</p>	<p>Within the first 5 years of this plan, the target is for at least 96% of pupils attending Welsh-medium primary schools to consistently continue to transition to a Welsh-medium secondary school. The target is appropriate due to the small cohort sizes and the effect that one pupil may have on the percentage.</p> <p>The overall target within this plan in relation to Reception age learners will have an effect on secondary provision within the lifespan of this WESP.</p>	<p>The overall target within the 10-year plan is for at least 96% of pupils attending Welsh-medium primary schools to consistently transition to a Welsh-medium secondary school.</p> <p>By 2032, additional Welsh-medium secondary provision will need to be created within the City, anticipated to be at least 600 learners of statutory school age, plus appropriate post-16 capacity. It is likely therefore that expansion of Welsh-medium secondary provision will be a key priority within Band C of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme, which will commence in circa 2024. These details have yet to be quantified.</p>

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<p><i>Outcome 4 – More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh</i></p>	<p>The first cohort of pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed completed their GCSE courses in the summer of 2021, and from September 2021, Post-16 Welsh-medium education will be delivered in Newport for the very first time.</p> <p>GCSE Welsh (2nd Language) is offered at all of Newport’s English-medium secondary schools across the City, although there is however a significant drop-off at Post-16.</p> <p>Coleg Gwent records the language of learning and assessment for all learners, and although these numbers are relatively low, the college is ambitious in its vision to increase these numbers over the next 10 years.</p>	<p>The 5-year targets within this plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for 317 learners (100% of the cohort) to study for assessed qualifications through the medium of Welsh in Years 10 to 13 at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed; • for 1952 learners (96.2% of the cohort) to study for assessed qualifications in GCSE Welsh (2nd language), and; • for 600 learners to study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh at Coleg Gwent. 	<p>The overall targets at the end of this 10-year plan are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for 342 learners (100% of the cohort) to study for assessed qualifications through the medium of Welsh in Years 10 to 13 at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed; • for 1941 learners (96.3% of the cohort) to study for assessed qualifications in GCSE Welsh (2nd language), and; <p>for 1000 learners to study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh at Coleg Gwent.</p>

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<p><i>Outcome 5 – More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school</i></p>	<p>Support for the Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg Campus is ongoing.</p> <p>A full-time Welsh Language youth worker is based at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed in partnership with Urdd Gobaith Cymru which also provides a variety of opportunities for learners to use Welsh outside school and in their communities.</p> <p>Menter Iaith Casnewydd operate After School Clubs at two primary schools.</p> <p>Coleg Gwent ensures that all learners are provided with Welsh language enrichment opportunities.</p>	<p>The 5-year target is for at least 30 English-medium schools to achieve Cymraeg Campus Gold Level Accreditation.</p> <p>Within 5 years, Menter Iaith Casnewydd aims to ensure that After School Clubs are available at all Welsh-medium primary schools.</p> <p>Coleg Gwent's expectation is that learner-participation levels for Welsh language activities increase to 70% over the next 5 years.</p>	<p>The overall target within the 10-year plan is for at least 40 English-medium schools to achieve Cymraeg Campus Gold Level Accreditation.</p> <p>Coleg Gwent's objective is to continue to grow and expand Welsh language enrichment provision and strive towards doubling engagement levels by the end of this decade.</p>

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<p><i>Outcome 6 – An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN)</i></p>	<p>The number of learners at School Action and School Action Plus levels across Welsh-medium schools is increasing. Alongside this, there is no Welsh-medium Learning Resource Base (LRB) available in Newport, although provision is planned to open within the next 5 years.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing to consider regional arrangements, such as a Welsh-medium secondary Managed Move Protocol, and collaboration opportunities for Welsh-speaking specialist staff.</p> <p>Specific Welsh ALN resources have been identified and purchased for the Welsh-medium cluster.</p>	<p>There is a commitment to open a Welsh-medium Primary LRB at Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Gwenni. Alongside this, outreach and specialist support will be developed to further enhance and refine universal and targeted provision.</p> <p>Despite the national shortage of Welsh speaking specialist ALN services, the aim is to secure cross consortia collaboration to provide specialist ALN support.</p> <p>Partnership working with Welsh Government will ensure that national resources and assessments are available to Welsh-medium schools to support ALN learners.</p>	<p>A second dedicated LRB will be available for learners studying through the medium of Welsh. The development of primary LRBs will impact on secondary provision, therefore consideration will need to be given regarding specialist ALN provision within Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed for pupils transitioning from the primary sector.</p> <p>The collaboration work with Welsh Government around development of national bilingual assessments and resources will continue over the life of this plan.</p>

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Outcome Area	Current Position	5-Year Target	10-Year Target
<p><i>Outcome 7 – Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh</i></p>	<p>This is undoubtedly the most challenging outcome area, and workforce planning is a specific area of concern. The Council is in the process of creating a vision and thread between its various Welsh language strategies that will support the delivery of objectives across several areas linked to the Council's 5-year Welsh Language Strategy. A stream contained within the strategy is to work with employers, partners, and stakeholders to promote the importance and economic benefits of speaking or learning Welsh, and how this can help and support pupils, students, and individuals to gain employment.</p>	<p>Within the first five years of this plan, our aim is to ensure that all posts in our Welsh-medium schools are filled with high calibre and appropriately qualified staff. To support this, we will establish a working group to conduct a workforce needs analysis for the Welsh-medium education growth model outlined within the 10 year strategic plan. The Council is committed to identifying the workforce required to provide Welsh-medium education over the lifespan of this plan.</p> <p>Within this time period, Coleg Gwent is targeting a 50% increase in the number of academic staff with fluent Welsh skills and those with advanced level Welsh skills.</p>	<p>By the end of this 10-year plan, we aim is to ensure that the additional provision created as part of the minimum targets are appropriately staffed, and that the Welsh-medium cluster continues to thrive under excellent workforce development and appropriate succession planning across all sectors and partners of the Education Service. The timeline of 10 years allows a timeframe to start to see previous Welsh-medium pupils coming back as teachers in Newport schools.</p> <p>Coleg Gwent aims to achieve a 100% increase in the number of both fluent and advanced Welsh speaking academic staff, and this will enable the college to offer Welsh medium and bilingual modules in all curriculum priority areas as set by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.</p>

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