

Education and Children Scrutiny Committee

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Update and Proposals for Implementation (March 2019)

1. Background

- 1.1. The policy landscape is briefly outlined in the top copy papers. In summary, the WESP strategy journeyed successfully through the corporate progress in 2017 and received Welsh Government approval in March 2018. The WESP and its implementation is now referenced in the CCC Corporate Strategy 2018-2023 (Wellbeing Objective 14, C1&2).
- 1.2. A comprehensive development plan, detailing actions against 7 main areas of focus, has been submitted to Welsh Government and its implementation is monitored by them.
- 1.3. Launch event - Carmarthenshire's WESP was officially launched on 25.6.18. The main messages stemming from the strategy and accentuated at the launch event:
 - The advantages of bilingualism and multilingualism
 - Carmarthenshire learners to acquire two 'first' languages by the end of primary school, sustained and developed through secondary – striving to ensure as many young people as possible can become confidently and equitably bilingual (i.e. Welsh and English by default)
 - Rising to the challenge of Cymraeg 2050
 - The introduction of Welsh as one continuum, thus raising the bar with second language
 - An agenda for all learners in all schools and settings
 - Moving each school along the language continuum...in one way or another; setting SMART targets; agreeing appropriate *challenge for all schools*
- 1.4. Audit and Workshops – Following the launch event, a period of further disseminating the WESP strategy ensued, with discussions as to what could be reasonably possible in all contexts within the lifetime of the strategy:
 - 4 headteacher meetings were conducted, aimed at:
 - Building consensus and working on practicalities
 - Completing an audit of each school's circumstance, capacity to change and working towards SMART targets
 - These workshops, combined with the thrust of strategic drivers, have enabled officers to compile a range of implementation proposals.
 - **Some actions don't require statutory consultation**, as they fall short of the definition of '*change in provision*'. A menu of actions are proposed as **quick wins** for all schools to consider
 - **Other actions will entail a change of provision**, which currently require **formal consultation** (see 1.5)
- 1.5. Need to consult- the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that Welsh Ministers produce a School Organisation Code. The updated School Organisation Code (11/2018) was issued in November 2018.

Schedule 2 to the 2013 Act describes a number of regulated alterations to maintained schools including the alteration of the medium of instruction of a class of pupils in an age group or groups, subject to preconditions described in **Annex 1**. Alterations in the nature of provision, such as those defined in Schedule 2, require formal, public consultation.

Change of provision *may* also lead to change of **school categorisation**, though it should be added that the National categorisation system is currently under review. It's worthy to note that the change in provision is the regulatory focus of consultation, not the change in category.

Currently, each school has a linguistic categorisation descriptor. The current status of Carmarthenshire Schools, as listed on PLASC, can be found in **Annex 2**.

2. Proposals to move the WESP forward

2.1. Phase 1: February 2019 forward

2.1.1. Move on all key areas of the WESP strategy, as described in the Development Plan (hyperlinked in top copy papers)

2.1.2. Move All Schools along the Continuum **short** of significant change in the nature of provision- Quick wins

- *Further develop school ethos* - in accordance with the WESP and emerging new curriculum for Wales, with an expectation in Carmarthenshire that all schools embrace and incorporate the Welsh Dimension across the school regardless of language category. Schools have been given a list of 'quick wins' to ensure that Welsh is not only visible around all schools but is also heard in the corridors and outside the classrooms and Welsh departments.
- *Introducing the Siarter Iaith/Language Charter* to all schools has, and will, give specific targets to ensure the use of incidental language. Also, this aims to give a better understanding to pupils of heritage and enhance their understanding, and value, of bilingualism. Developing a sense of identity is considered a vital precursor in developing pupils' global citizenship and well-being. Siarter Iaith is now operative in all primary schools. A launch training day for secondary schools was conducted on 17/01/19 (one secondary school is already piloting the Siarter).
- *Other quick wins*: Labelling; Displays; Simple greetings; Music/Apps; Criw Cymraeg/Ambassadors; Word/Sentence/idiom of the week; Cwtsh Cymraeg; Graffiti Wall; Language tokens; Playground language games; Urdd/Mentrau; Promoting the advantages of bilingualism; Training/upskilling; Preparing for one language continuum-Cymraeg ail iaith GCSE level is being phased out.

2.1.3. Move certain schools, tantamount to **change in provision** as defined by para. 2.2. of the School Organisation Code – necessitating **formal consultation** (To be implemented from **September 2020**)

2.1.3.1. Group 1: Establish Welsh medium Foundation Phase; retain 2 streams from year 3 onwards in **four** primary schools (discussions ongoing).

2.1.3.2. Group 2: As part of the MEP capital investment process:

- Establish **one Welsh Medium School** by discontinuing **four** primary schools
- Create a **new Welsh medium** school with nursery provision on a new site
- Refurbish/develop another school, which would remain Dual Stream but have an all Welsh Foundation Phase with an option at year 3 to choose a Welsh or English stream. (**four** schools incorporated in the MEP process, with potentially a **fifth** involved in the reorganisation)
- Ensure a permanent change in provision of a school to **Welsh medium**

Therefore, in total, Phase 1 would involve **13 to 14 primary** schools moving to change in provision/re-configuration.

2.1.3.3. Outline of the consultative process in Carmarthenshire (Figure 1)

FIGURE 1

Term 1: Informal consultation with parents/workshops; Exec. Board (**Proposal report**) / CMT / PEB / Scrutiny (**Permission to consult**)

Term 2: Formal Consultation (6 weeks)

Term 3: PEB / Scrutiny / Exec Board (**Permission to publish statutory notice**) / PEB / Scrutiny / EB / Full Council

Discuss with Fforwm Y Gymraeg mewn Addysg / Welsh in Education Forum, and keep updated, along the way.

2.1.3.4 Other developments

- Formally instigate discussions to develop Welsh medium provision in the Newcastle Emlyn area at primary and secondary phases
- Plan further for a secondary / tertiary Welsh medium resolution in Llanelli:
 - To address capacity issues at Ysgol y Strade
 - To ensure that Welsh medium tertiary education can be developed in partnership with Coleg Sir Gâr
 - To address and support the appetite to develop Welsh medium streams in other Llanelli secondary schools as demand for Welsh medium education in the town increases from primary phase upwards.
 - Draft proposals for developing these aspects are currently being discussed and developed
- Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg (PAG) (currently Strade, Bro Myrddin and Maes y Gwendraeth), offer a number of collaborative post-14 courses and have done so successfully for a number of years. This provision to continue to be supported and developed, as resources permit.
 - Possible expansion of PAG to involve the current 2B schools (Bro Dinefwr and Dyffryn Aman)
 - Further curriculum collaboration via video conferencing and blended learning approaches
- Consider Carmarthen West. There are Band B plans for significant investment in the Carmarthen West area and could, at least, involve undertaking an extension on the

Bro Myrddin site and/or consider other, more substantive, WESP-related developmental options:

- Evaluate and review curriculum models and arrangements in current 2B schools as they interpret moving forward with the WESP, and work with WG to ensure a strong niche for schools such as these in the new national school categorisation process
- Consider schools which have evolved naturally
- Conduct further discussions with schools in the Whitland area
- Consider the aspirations of other schools as they emerge

2.2. Phase 2: 2020 and implement by September 2021

- Move **five** primary schools to change in provision, with the introduction of the Foundation Phase immersion model
- Consider next phases of development for schools in the Newcastle Emlyn area
- Consider the aspirations of other schools as they emerge
- Plan further for Phase 3

2.3. Phase 3: 2021 and implement by September 2022 onwards

- Move other schools as the picture evolves
- Consider next phases of development for schools in the Whitland area

3. Other matters:

- **Canolfannau Iaith/Language Centres** – CCC ECS successfully applied for grant assistance from Welsh Government, which is confirmed at £985,248.00 for capital outlay to establish 2 centres. This is an innovative and exciting project founded upon experience and positive feedback regarding past and current delivery, which has resulted in raising standards. In order to meet the criteria set out by Welsh Government of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, it is critical that this initiative is developed.

The project has three main aims and objectives

- To assist all latecomers into Carmarthenshire to become bilingual (Welsh and English).
- Provide professional development to upskill school staff to enable them to teach and converse bilingually within and outside the classroom.
- To ensure positive experiences of language learning for parents and guardians thus enabling them to support their children.

Locations- Officers have considered this announcement, factored in strategic considerations and looked at anticipated demand. It is proposed that the grant could help to set up 4 centres in total. Proposals for location:

- Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth: 2 storey primary and secondary facility (new build)
- Ysgol Bro Dinefwr: re-occupy the purpose built space in the new build
- Ysgol Griffith Jones: occupy the Cwtsh Cymraeg – minimal investment
- Ysgol Emlyn: space in secondary School – light refurbishment

4. Next Stages

4.1. Capacity Issues

An agenda such as this will pose challenges in terms of officer capacity in The Access to Education team. Propose:

- Retention of the current graduate trainee
- Seek to appoint one other officer on a 1.0FTE basis to assist with this agenda

The Athrawon Gwella'r Gymraeg a Dwyieithrwydd Team require support to realise this strategy fully:

- Seek to retain 3 part-time tutors
- Consider appointing a peripatetic Modern Foreign Languages specialist to promote multilingualism in our primary schools

4.2. Draft Timetable

March 2019	Initiate and complete discussions with local members who serve schools in this plan where change in provision is planned
March – April 2019	Complete discussions with all governing bodies affected
Summer term 2019 onwards	When above completed, consider a more substantive public announcement to encompass the scheme in its entirety
	Initiate informal consultation process
	Move to formal consultation

4.3. Other actions

- Make further contact with Coleg Sir Gâr
- Discuss further with Welsh Government
- Instruct each Governing Body to report regularly on school's progress in moving on the WESP agenda
- Each school and learning setting to make appropriate revisions to School Development Plan in light of the WESP

Annex 1 School Organisation Code 2018, [para. 2.2.]

Alterations in the nature of provision, such as those defined in Schedule 2 require formal, public consultation:

‘The alteration of the medium of instruction of a class of pupils in an age group or groups (including nursery pupils) at a primary school (or primary education in relation to middle or special schools) which falls within the description in column 1 of the table below so that it falls within the description in the corresponding entry in column 2.’

Column 1	Column 2
At least 20% but no more than 80% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of English.	An increase or decrease of more than 20% in the teaching which is conducted through the medium of Welsh.
At least 20% but no more than 80% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.	An increase or decrease of more than 20% in the teaching which is conducted through the medium of English.
More than 80% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of English, and some teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.	An increase of more than 10% in the teaching which is conducted through the medium of Welsh.
More than 80% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh, and some teaching is conducted through the medium of English.	An increase of more than 10% in the teaching which is conducted through the medium of English.
No teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.	More than 10% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.
No teaching is conducted through the medium of English.	More than 10% of the teaching is conducted through the medium of English.
Some teaching is conducted through the medium of English.	No teaching is conducted through the medium of English.
Some teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.	No teaching is conducted through the medium of Welsh.

Annex 2: List of Schools and category (Source: My Local School)

Nursery and Primary Schools	
School Name	Language Category
Ammanford Nursery School	Dual Stream
Abergwili VCP School	Welsh Medium
Abernant C P School	Welsh Medium
Bancyfelin C P School	Welsh Medium
Betws School	Transitional
Bigyn C.P. School	English Medium
Bryn Primary School	English Medium
Brynaman C P School	Welsh Medium
Burry Port Community Primary School	English Medium
Cae'r Felin Community School	Welsh Medium
Carway Primary School	Welsh Medium
Cefneithin C P School	Welsh Medium
Cross Hands Primary School	Welsh Medium
Cwrt Henri Primary School	Welsh Medium
Cynwyl Elfed School	Welsh Medium
Dafen Primary School	English Medium
Ferryside VCP School	Welsh Medium
Halfway Primary School	English Medium
Hendy C.P. School	Dual Stream
Johnstown Primary School	English Medium
Laugharne VCP School	English Medium
Llanddarog VCP School	Welsh Medium
Llandeilo County Primary School	English Medium
Llandybie C.P. School	Transitional
Llangadog C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Llangain C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Llangunnor C.P. School	Dual Stream
Llanmiloe C.P. School	English Medium
Llanpumsaint School	Welsh Medium
Llanybydder C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Llechyfedach C P School	Welsh Medium
Maes Y Morfa Community Primary School	English Medium
Maesybont Primary School	Welsh Medium
Meidrim C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Model Church in Wales School	English (with significant Welsh)
Myrddin C.P. School	English Medium
Old Road CP School	English Medium
Parc y Tywyn School	Welsh Medium
Parcyrhun Primary School	Dual Stream
Pembrey C.P. School	English Medium
Pentip V.A. C.I.W. Primary School	English Medium
Penygaer Primary School	English Medium
Penygroes C.P. School	Welsh Medium

Ponthenri C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Pontyates C.P. School	Welsh Medium
Pwll C.P. School	English Medium
Richmond Park Primary School	English Medium
St Mary's Catholic Primary School (LLANELLI)	English Medium
St Mary's R.C. Primary School (CARMARTHEN)	English Medium
Stebonheath C. P. School	English Medium
Swiss Valley Primary School	English (with significant Welsh)
Talley C.P School	Welsh Medium
Tremoilet VCP School	English Medium
Trimsaran Community School	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Beca	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Bro Banw	Dual Stream
Ysgol Bro Brynach	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Bryn Teg	English Medium
Ysgol Carreg Hirfaen	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Griffith Jones	Dual Stream
Ysgol Gwynfryn	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Llangennech	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymraeg Teilo Sant	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gymunedol Ffwrnes	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Bancffosfelen	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Blaenau	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Brynsaron	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Bynea	English Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Drefach	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Ffairfach	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Gorslas	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Hafodwenog	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Llannon	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Peniel	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Pontyberem	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Pum Heol	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Saron	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Ty-croes	English Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol Llanllwni	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gynradd Y Tymbl	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Llanedi	English (with significant Welsh)
Ysgol Llansteffan	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Llys Hywel	Dual Stream
Ysgol Mynydd-y-Garreg	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Nantgaredig	Welsh Medium

Ysgol Penrhos	Dual Stream
Ysgol Rhys Prichard	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Wirfoddol Penboyr	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Y Bedol	Welsh Medium
Ysgol y Castell	English Medium
Ysgol y Dderwen	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Y Ddwylan	Dual Stream
Ysgol Y Felin	Dual Stream
Ysgol y Fro	Welsh Medium
Secondary Schools	
School Name	Welsh Medium Description
Ysgol Dyffryn Aman	B Bilingual
Bryngwyn School	English Medium
Coedcae School	English Medium
Glan-y-Mor School	English Medium
Queen Elizabeth High School	English (with significant Welsh)
St John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School	English Medium
Ysgol Bro Dinefwr	B Bilingual
Ysgol Dyffryn Taf	English Medium
Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn	English (with significant Welsh)
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin	Welsh Medium
Ysgol Gyfun Y Strade	A Bilingual
Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth	A Bilingual
Special Schools	
School Name	Welsh Medium Description
Ysgol Heol Goffa	English Medium
Rhydygors School & Support Services	English Medium

Annex 3: Transferring to Welsh medium School from Dual Stream Situation

Year 1 (20xx)	FP	KS2			
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM	2	3	4	5	6
Year 2 (20xy)					
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM		3	4	5	6
Year 3 (20xz)					
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM			4	5	6
Year 4 (20yx)					
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM				5	6
Year 5 (20yy)					
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM					6
Year 6 (20yz)					
WM	N,R,1,2	3	4	5	6
EM					