

# Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

## September 2022

<b>Name of Local Authority</b>
<b>Denbighshire County Council</b>
<b>Period of this Plan</b>
<b>2022-2032</b>

# DCC Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is made under Section 84 of *The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013* and the content complies with the *Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019*<sup>1-2</sup>. We have given due regard to the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers when setting our targets.

Signed:



Date:

25/08/22

(This Plan needs to be signed by the Chief Education officer within your local authority)

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<sup>1</sup> [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) Regulations 2019](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#)

# DCC Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

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# **DCC Welsh in Education Strategic Plan**

## **Our ten year vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in our area**

By September 2032 it is the aspiration of Denbighshire County Council that 40% of all seven year old pupils will have attend Welsh – medium education. Having a strong foundation in speaking and communicating in Welsh will increase a pupil’s choice and confidence to follow a fully bilingual path in education and onwards into employment and in the wider community.

In September 2020, 28% of Year 2 pupils in Denbighshire schools were receiving Welsh medium education. By 2032, Denbighshire County Council's aspiration, through full consultation with stakeholders, is that the lower target of 37% proposed by the Welsh Government is exceeded and with the aim of being closer to the upper target of 41%.

In the period between 2010 and 2020 the percentage and number of pupils receiving Welsh medium primary education in Denbighshire increased. This has coincided with investment in the school estate and implementation of school reorganisation proposals. Currently there is surplus capacity within Welsh medium schools which could facilitate 30% of all Year 1 pupils in Denbighshire although this is not evenly distributed throughout the County. In some areas there is less than 4% surplus capacity available therefore further growth will require changes to be implemented. The Council will respond to any new housing developments ensuring that Welsh language education is available locally. If it is necessary to open a new school in the future, the linguistic designation of the School will meet the strategic requirements of this Plan.

In Denbighshire it is proposed to meet the target for growth through increasing the capacity of Welsh Medium Schools and changing the language designation of English medium schools through the framework of the new categorisation policy. This will result in a gradual increase in the availability of Welsh medium education over the 10 year duration of this plan in the Primary and Secondary sector. A detailed timetable for the targets will form part of the Council's implementation plan.

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This aspiration would support the Welsh Government aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050. This also supports Denbighshire County Council's vision of the Welsh language which is set out in the Welsh Language Strategy:

- Denbighshire is a predominantly bilingual county with a rich culture and heritage.
- We want to enhance the bilingual culture and ethos of the organisation, providing training and social opportunities for our staff to work in Welsh and increase their confidence in using the language in the workplace.
- We want to work with partners and the wider communities to ensure that Welsh is a thriving language in Denbighshire.

All schools in Denbighshire will be required to include in their Annual Governors Report to parents what actions they have implemented to support the outcomes of this plan for its duration.

### **Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh**

#### **Where are we now?**

The language of preschool delivery in Denbighshire is as follows in accordance to the description of the provider:

Number of childcare providers by language of provision	Welsh	Welsh and English	English with elements of Welsh	English	Total settings
Number of registered child minders	6	0	11	22	39

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Number of registered Day Nurseries	15	3	26	2	56
Number of registered Care Sessions	9	0	2	0	11
Number of registered after school settings	6	0	8	3	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>123</b>

32% of all settings are either Welsh medium or bilingual. 79% of all settings offer some elements of Welsh.

The highest proportion of either Welsh medium or bilingual settings are in the Corwen area with 80% and these supply 98% of all available places. The area with the most places available is Ruthin, but the location of Cylch Rhuthun in the village of Pwllglas is not appropriate to parents without a car.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Percentage Welsh or Bilingual Settings</b>	<b>Capacity of Welsh Medium or Bilingual Settings</b>	<b>Capacity of all childcare settings in the area</b>
Corwen	80%	123	126



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Denbigh	38%	252	608
Llangollen	29%	39	185
Prestatyn	10%	67	683
Rhyl	19%	158	1053
Ruthin	57%	354	705
St Asaph	25%	38	211

The majority of Welsh medium Childcare providers in Denbighshire are affiliated to Mudiad Meithrin. In 2020, the percentage of children transferring to Welsh medium education was 93.8%, which is higher than the all Wales transfer rate of 89.8%. The lowest transition rates were from Cylch Bodawen and Cylch Dinbych Ucha. Both of these settings are located in Denbigh.

During the previous plan, new Cylch Meithrin provisions were opened in Gwyddelwern, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, Clocaenog and St Asaph. Two of these provisions were co-located on the same site as a primary school. These four settings provide 87 places. In addition two existing settings (Aberclwyd and Rhuddlan) were merged to create Cylch Dewi Sant which relocated to the site of Ysgol Dewi Sant in Rhyl.

There have been 17 Ti a Fi groups running in Denbighshire, with additional support being targeted in the areas of Rhyl, Prestatyn, St Asaph and Corwen.

### Flying Start

There are 3 welsh medium settings out of 13 (23%) in all 3 of our Flying Start areas. This means 25 children out of the 170 (14.7%) attend a Welsh medium setting.

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## Learner Transport

In accordance with section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, the Authority promotes access to Welsh medium education by providing discretionary transport to the nearest suitable Welsh or English medium education, if this is parental / carer preference. This will apply even if the school is not their nearest suitable school.

For Welsh Medium education it would be a school which is categorised as either 1 or 2 within the Welsh Government guidelines on Welsh Medium Provision. For category 2 it would be a school where at least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh, but are also taught through the medium of English.

If the nearest Welsh or English medium school is outside of County then transport would still be provided by the Authority. Preference will only be considered against Welsh Medium or English Medium schools. This is subject to the same distance criteria as within the County.

## **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

Within the first five years of the plan it is intended to safeguard existing provision and improve accessibility for Welsh medium and bilingual preschool provision. This will be delivered by:

- Completing new childcare facilities located on the same site as Ysgol Twm o'r Nant, Denbigh, ensuring an abundance of facilities by March 2023.
- Completion of a new childcare facility located on the same site as Ysgol Dewi Sant by March 2024.
- Identify ways to improve Welsh-medium childcare facilities in Ruthin and Prestatyn, protecting the places for the future.
- Increase the number of locations that can provide at least elements of the Welsh language from 79% to 90%.
- Increase the number of Welsh-medium pre-school care places available in the Llangollen area to 60.

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- Establishing a new Welsh Medium location at the Oaktree Integrated Childcare Centre creating a new Flying Start provider in Rhyl and increasing the number of places available by October 2022 within the Ysgol Dewi Sant catchment area.
- Increase the percentage and number of children who have access to Flying Start services through the medium of Welsh and in particular apply to secure funding to increase the capacity of Flying Start childcare at Ysgol y Llys Prestatyn.
- Ensure that childcare provision is available to all Welsh-medium primary schools in Denbighshire.
- Mudiad Meithrin will work with the Council and others to create a clear picture of the route to Welsh Education to ensure that the correct messages are shared in order to increase the number of children entering Welsh Education.
- Specific outcomes will be included in our Action Plan for Mudiad Meithrin activity. Through the Cymraeg i Blant programme, Mudiad Meithrin will continue to support parents by holding support sessions for parents-to-be and new parents. The organisation will offer baby massage sessions, baby yoga and Story, Sign and Song sessions.
- The Cymraeg i Blant officer will share information relating to the benefits of introducing the Welsh language and will share information about care and education in the Welsh language by working with the Health Visitors and Midwives within the County.
- The Implementation Plan will support Mudiad Meithrin to encourage the further development of the local Ti a Fi groups
- Work with the Mudiad Meithrin's Sefydлу a Symud program to ensure that more childcare settings deliver the Welsh language throughout the County.
- Work with partners to ensure that the response to the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is aligned to meet the need for Welsh-medium provision by strengthening and expanding the Welsh-medium childcare provision to ensure a seamless pathway in terms of medium education Welsh.

Overall, during the first 5 years of this plan our aim is to deliver at least 80 new places and safeguard another 50 places.

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Denbighshire County Council will also work with stakeholders to review the user pathway for parents to ensure there are opportunities at several points during the process to provide information about the Welsh-medium education options in their area? We will use the input of stakeholders to tailor the information available to parents and carers and ensure it clearly states:

- Welsh Medium Education is an option for everybody regardless of their linguistic background.
- The benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism.
- There is clear and comprehensive information in our admission booklet and on the website.
- Includes information regarding schools increasing the amount of Welsh and which schools are on the pathway to change language category, and what that means.
- How Denbighshire County Council ensures access to Welsh-medium education through its Learner Transport Policy.

We will also include links to additional information:

- Welsh literature and publications.
- Online resources.
- Opportunities for adults to learn Welsh.

To complement the online information frontline staff will be provided with training on how to discuss the Welsh-medium education options which are available, common questions/concerns.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

At the end of our 10 year plan we expect:

- An Increase in the percentage of 3 year old children educated through the medium of Welsh to over 30%.
- An Increase in the availability of Welsh medium and bilingual places in the Denbigh area to over 50%.

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- Support more settings who are currently delivering some Welsh elements to increase their provision to enable more Children leaving the setting are bilingual.
- More Welsh medium preschool capacity in the Rhyl and Prestatyn areas where there is current capacity in the schools for more pupils.
- More Welsh medium and bilingual settings located in close proximity to schools who are changing the Linguistic category of the school in order to increase the provision of Welsh.
- More childcare settings introducing the Welsh language throughout the County.
- More children accessing Flying Start through the medium of Welsh.
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment will identify that there is a seamless path to Welsh-medium education.

### Key Data

In 2020-21 a total of 95 three year old children were educated only through the medium of Welsh. This represented 23% of all 3 year old children educated. The data below reflects potential growth based on the realization of our plans.

Numbers and % of 3-year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh									
2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024		2024 - 2025		2025 - 2026		2026 - 2027	
110	25%	110	25%	110	25%	118	27%	118	27%
2027 - 2028		2027 - 2028		2027 - 2028		2027 - 2028		2027 - 2028	
118	27%	132	30%	132	30%	140	32%	140	32%

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## Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

### Where are we now?

Welsh medium education has grown in Denbighshire over the last 10 years.

	2010	2020	Change
Number of Primary pupils receiving Welsh medium education	1750	2069	+ 18.2%
Percentage of primary pupils receiving Welsh medium education	24%	27%	+ 3%
Cumulative admission number (Category 1 and 2)	321	324	+3

As of 2020 there is space for 2304 full time primary pupils to access Welsh medium education within Denbighshire Schools. 10 of these school sites have also received significant investment over the last 10 years.

In the 2020/21 academic year 27% of all pupils in the Foundation Phase received Welsh medium education. 27% of all pupils were also in Year 1 of the 2020/21 academic year therefore 27% accurately represents the current baseline.

In 2020, Denbighshire County Council completed the Welsh Language Centre building. The building accommodates the latecomer provision for pupils between 7 and 11 year olds in the county and is located in St Asaph. Due to the geography of the County the support for latecomers will be split between provision at the centre and through outreach service.

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## **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

Denbighshire has been set a target to increase the number of year 1 pupils educated through the medium of Welsh by 10% over the next 10 years. This plan identifies an approach that would facilitate this increase and acknowledges the requirement to start delivering change over the first 5 years.

## **Is the existing Welsh medium capacity sufficient to support this growth?**

Overall there is a 10.2% surplus capacity within schools which provide Welsh medium provision to allow for growth. However this capacity is not evenly distributed throughout the County with less than 4% available space in the Denbigh, Edeyrnion and Dee Valley areas.

If all available Welsh medium places were full, based on existing cohorts, 30% of pupils would receive Welsh medium education. Therefore additional changes will need to take place in order for Denbighshire to reach its target.

## **What is the proposed approach?**

- Increase capacity in Welsh Medium Schools

Ysgol Gymraeg y Gwernant is in Llangollen which is in the Dee Valley and is included in Band B of the Sustainable Learning Communities Program of and the investment in the school will result in the admission number increasing by 11, namely from 19 to 30, and this will increase the full time capacity to 210.

A review of other Welsh medium schools will also take place to identify how capacity can be increased within the existing curtilage of their buildings.

- Change language designation of schools

This will require the language of teaching to change from English to Welsh, starting with the foundation phase.

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This will be a process which will take place over a period of up to 6 years as new starters are taught through the medium of Welsh.

By 2032, schools who will have transitioned will be delivering at least the entire foundation phase through the medium of Welsh.

### **Which schools will be identified to develop their provision?**

Schools that have some or all of the following characteristics will have a shorter distance to travel when increasing their provision:

- Currently delivering a significant use of Welsh (Existing Category 4). These schools are located in the Edeyrnion, Ruthin and Denbigh areas.
- A high proportion of staff with a high level of Welsh.
- Located in areas with low surplus capacity within existing Welsh medium schools.
- Support from the Governing Body.
- Access to Welsh or bilingual preschool provision.

As a result, this plan would prioritise increasing provision at schools which meet more of the above characteristics due to the increased likelihood that change will be achieved earlier. The council will collaborate very closely with the staff, governors and stakeholders of these schools, to share the vision and jointly design a plan for changing the linguistic category of the foundation period.

By the end of the first five years it is expected that four schools will have started to introduce more Welsh in their foundation phase and that the overall percentage of year 1 pupils receiving Welsh medium education will increase by 5%.

Appropriate discussions will take place with the four County Category 4 schools that will change category due to the Welsh Government's new categorisation policy. Denbighshire County Council and GWE will work very closely with the staff, governors and stakeholders of these schools, to offer support throughout the journey by establishing and implementing a comprehensive support package.



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A key part of this will be building internal capacity within the Council to support schools. A portion of the Welsh Government immersion grant will be used to support schools that are committed to increasing their Welsh-medium provision.

### **What support will be provided for existing Welsh medium schools?**

The main support for growth within existing Welsh medium schools will be provided through:

- Investment in Welsh medium preschool facilities, making Welsh medium education more accessible and enabling partner organisations to engage with parents (See outcome 1).
- Improving the availability and location of information on the Denbighshire County Council website ensuring that information is easy to find.
- Addressing issues which limit the current offer on some school sites through small scale capital investment.
- Targeting the Welsh Government's immersion grant over the first 3 years of the Scheme on supporting transfer between KS2 and KS3, supporting activities that reduce the number of pupils leaving Welsh medium Education and strengthening the Secondary Welsh Medium provision in the South of the County.

Each element will, contribute towards the goal of increasing the number of pupils receiving Welsh medium education.

Arrangements are in place within the Council to ensure that Welsh-medium provision is supported when there is no capacity as a result of new housing developments. These developments are not limited in the Local Development Plan to one area but instead there are proposed developments across the county.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

By the end of this 10 year plan, it is expected that Denbighshire will be within sight of the aspirational target of 40% of year 1 pupils receiving Welsh medium education.

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This will have been achieved through the planned capital investment in preschool and primary school infrastructure and through investment in transitioning schools to offer more Welsh medium education.

At least four schools will have successfully transitioned to delivering the foundation phase through the medium of Welsh and have completed the process to change language category to become category 2 schools. In addition, Denbighshire County Council will work closely with the four schools, to create a detailed plan to change the linguistic category of Key Stage 2. Also, Denbighshire County Council will work closely with the staff and governors of another four schools to start the process of increasing their Welsh medium offer and providing a Welsh medium foundation period.

The language designation of any new schools opened over the next 10 years will meet the strategic requirement of this plan.

As a result, the Welsh medium offer within Denbighshire will have grown by the equivalent of three and a half form entry or 105 places per year.

### Key Data

The data below is based on current projections which includes assumptions regarding growth in demand in existing Welsh medium schools and the transition of existing English medium schools to offer a Welsh medium foundation phase.

Numbers and % of 5-year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh									
2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024		2024 - 2025		2025 - 2026		2026 - 2027	
297	27%	310	28%	310	28%	330	30%	352	32%
2027 - 2028		2028 - 2029		2029 - 2030		2030 - 2031		2031 - 2032	
352	32%	410	37%	410	37%	422	38%	444	40%

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## **Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another**

### **Where are we now?**

The baseline for the percentage of pupils transferring between key stage is as follows:

#### Foundation Phase

27% of the 2020/21 academic year pupils in year 1 are following their education through the medium of Welsh. 99% have continued from nursery education in 2018/19.

#### Key Stage 2

27% of the 2020/21 academic year pupils in year 3 are following their education through the medium of Welsh. 97% have continued from year 1 in 2018/19.

#### Key Stage 3

Over the last two years 93% of pupils in Denbighshire Primary schools who studied Welsh in Key Stage 2 transferred to Welsh medium provision in Key Stage 3. The figure excludes pupils attending the 'Trochi' immersion provision at Ysgol Glan Clwyd which enables latecomers to attend Welsh medium education.

#### Key Stage 4

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Based on the latest available data, 95% of pupils who were assessed through the medium of Welsh at the end of Key Stage 3 (Year 9) continued to be assessed as Welsh 1<sup>st</sup> Language at the end of Key stage 4 (Year 11).

## Current Provision at Key Stage 3 and 4

There are three schools in Denbighshire providing Welsh medium education in Key Stage 3 and 4. These are Ysgol Glan Clwyd in St Asaph, Ysgol Brynhyfryd in Ruthin and Ysgol Dinas Bran in Llangollen. Currently Ysgol Glan Clwyd is categorised as a Welsh medium Secondary School (Category 1) and Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran are bilingual schools (Category 2B).

New language categories will be published by Welsh Government in 2021 and Denbighshire's current Welsh medium secondary provision will transfer to new categories.

## **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

The new language categories which Welsh Government confirm in 2021 require every school to be placed in its most appropriate category which demonstrates its Welsh language provision. Denbighshire County Council will agree with the governors of each maintained school the appropriate category for their provision based on their current provision and their interest in developing their provision in the future. Schools who are implementing the vision of this plan for linguistic development will be placed in transitional categories. This work will be completed by June 2022.

The package of support which the Council will have in place will support schools to meet the relevant educational and linguistic outcomes by 2032 and beyond.

## **Provision in the south of the County – Ruthin, Edeyrnion and Llangollen areas.**

Within the first 5 years work will take place specifically and as a result of the Welsh Government's new categorisation policy for Welsh language provision, we will review the provision in the South of the County to maintain and strengthen the Welsh medium secondary offer available to pupils. The Council will work with Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran and their Welsh medium feeder schools to review current arrangements and

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identify ways to improve and sustain their Welsh medium offer with the aim of ensuring that by 2027 the same language offer is available for every pupil in Denbighshire up to the end of key stage 4.

From 2022 the Key Stage 4 offer at Ysgol Brynhyfryd will be identical to their English medium offer and comparable to the offer in Welsh medium secondary schools. The initial target for the review will be to identify the best ways of sustaining the offer and ensuring that there is no future regression.

At Ysgol Dinas Bran the focus of the review will be on identifying the best model for delivering an equitable offer to what will be offered at Ysgol Glan Clwyd and Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

### **Pupils transferring to secondary education**

93% of primary Welsh-medium pupils transfer to Welsh-medium secondary education at present. In 2020, 3% of the pupils transitioning from Welsh to English medium provision selected the English medium stream at Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran and 4% selected an English medium secondary school. Most of the pupils transitioning to English medium secondary schools from Welsh medium primaries in 2020 selected a secondary school nearer to their home address than the nearest Welsh medium option.

The percentage of pupils receiving Welsh education in primary schools who transfer to Welsh-medium secondary education in the south of the county is currently 89%. Therefore both secondary schools in the south of the County, Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran will be supported by partners to work with feeder primaries and parents to increase the transition rate to 95% within the first 5 years.

Denbighshire County Council will continue to use the same data based methodology to monitor the linguistic progression rates as a consistent approach is essential to enable year on year comparison.

Denbighshire County Council will continue to work on a collaborative basis with neighbouring local authorities to ensure continuity in arrangements for persons accessing Welsh-medium education out of County.

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A detailed timetable for the targets will form part of the Council's action plan. The targets will include a specific target for the Language Centre relating to supporting KS2 pupils to stay in the Welsh medium sector.

### Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?

It is intended that following working with the stakeholders of Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Dinas Bran that by 2032 there will be a secondary provision in the South of the County that delivers equitable outcomes to that of a Welsh Medium School (Category 3 of the new School Language Designations).

That would ensure that there is parity of choice and opportunity with what is currently available in the north of County.

Primary schools which will have changed the language of their provision will have completed implementing a Welsh medium stream for 7 to 11 year olds with at least 60% of the pupils transitioning to Welsh medium secondary provision.

The south of the County will also have developed a 'Trochi' Welsh immersion provision to enable latecomers to access Welsh medium provision in key stage 3.

### Key Data

In September 2020, 93% (262) of pupils from Welsh medium primary schools in Denbighshire transferred to secondary Welsh medium education. This represented 24% of the entire Year 6 cohort.

The target takes into consideration the current number of pupils attending Welsh medium education in each cohort and is adjusted accordingly.

Numbers and % of learners continuing to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another				
2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027

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306	94%	241	94%	286	95%	285	95%	281	95%
2027 - 2028		2028 - 2029		2029 - 2030		2030 - 2031		2031 - 2032	
283	98%	268	98%	277	98%	296	98%	308	98%

### Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

#### Where are we now?

##### Baseline

The data for 2018/19 will be used as the baseline as the most recent year when all measures were completed:

##### Welsh medium students

Measure	Number	Percentage
FP O5+ (LCW)	225	85.6%
KS2 L4+ (Cym)	236	88.4%
KS3 L5+ (Cym)	222	92.5%
KS4 A*- C (Cym)	165	77.5%

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## English medium students

Measure	Number	Percentage
KS2 L4+ (Welsh 2nd)	690	88.4%
KS3 L5+ (Welsh 2nd)	763	79.9%
KS4 A*-C (Welsh 2nd)	470	65.1%

In 2019, 27% of all learners in Denbighshire studied for a first language GCSE qualification with 21% of all learners achieving an A\* - C.

The percentage of learners obtaining A\* - C (2<sup>nd</sup> language) decreased as more pupils were entered into the full course as the short course qualification was abolished. 470 learners were entered into the qualification in 2016 compared with 724 in 2019.

## Welsh as an A- Level subject

Academic year	Students entered for Welsh language	Students entered for Welsh 2nd language
2018/19	16	2
2019/20	18	6

5% of the cohort studied either Welsh 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Language at A level in 2018/19. In 2019/20 the percentage increased to 7.5% although the cohort was also smaller than 2018/19.



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**Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

**How will we support Secondary schools to take steps to increase the number and percentage of pupils can that study through the medium of Welsh?**

- We will engage with families from Welsh medium primary schools to continue with Welsh medium education utilising social media platforms.
- Support more pupils in English medium primary schools to access the ‘trochi’ immersion programme at Ysgol Glan Clwyd.
- Provide training for those teachers who require additional support to use the language.
- Ensure that schools understand the requirements of new GCSE qualifications due to the Curriculum for Wales.
- Develop additional targets following Qualifications Wales’ consultation on the proposal that the Welsh GCSE will be equivalent to one and a half GCSEs.

**How will we support Secondary schools to take steps to increase the number of qualifications pupils can study through the medium of Welsh?**

- We will work with our schools to baseline all information regarding the KS4 and KS5 Welsh medium study rate and course availability as of September 2022.
- We will work on ensuring that the education offer in south of the County provides parity to the offer available in the north and that the offer is sustained with no regression.
- Continue to distribute the relevant Welsh language finance to ensure Welsh medium classes for KS4 subjects - monitor and justify this expenditure before, during and at the end of financial periods.
- Use the e-sgol system to support GCSE subjects and enhance the e-sgol menu in terms of Welsh medium A Level subjects.
- Ensure that pupils studying a first language qualification, who also study the Welsh Baccalaureate, are to be assessed through the medium of Welsh.

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- Support those teachers who lack linguistic confidence to attend the sabbatical course and provide improvement sessions (gloywi iaith) for them within the authority.
- Collect current data from whichever exam/qualification board schools choose e.g. some schools changing from teaching A Level to providing a BTEC course.
- Support schools as they design an appropriate progression along pupils' linguistic route from one sector to another, in line with the Curriculum for Wales.
- Establish a close relationship and plan with Careers Wales in order to share positive messages.

### **Welsh as an A Level subject**

- We will develop the use of e-ysgol to share expertise between schools to ensure that Welsh is offered as an A Level subject in all A level provision in the County.
- We will collaborate with schools to promote the advantages of studying Welsh as a subject amongst pupils and parents/guardians by creating our own case study videos tracing the careers to date of pupils who studied Welsh as an A Level subject.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

At the end of this 10-year plan, the provision of two Secondary schools in Denbighshire will meet the outcome requirements of Welsh medium designation (School categories according to Welsh-medium provision – Welsh Government).

To see the percentage of learners studying for their qualifications through the medium of Welsh to increase gradually every year replicating the increase that has taken place in Primary provision.

More students will be studying Welsh as a subject at A level.

We expect to see an increase in pupils and parents' confidence to choose Welsh medium education.

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In the 2031 census results, we will expect to see a higher percentage of pupils between 5 and 15 years old who can speak Welsh.

## Key Data

The percentage of learners studying for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh at the end of Key Stage 4.									
2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024		2024 - 2025		2025 - 2026		2026 - 2027	
261	21%	294	22%	276	22%	295	23%	279	24%
2027 - 2028		2028 - 2029		2029 - 2030		2030 - 2031		2031 - 2032	
256	24%	301	27%	300	27%	296	27%	289	28%

## Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

### Where are we now?

Denbighshire is committed to improving the Welsh language skills of persons receiving Welsh medium education in any school in order to improve standards of Welsh medium education. Individual school standards are scrutinised by elected members through the School Standards Monitoring Group and by Gwe officers.

Schools participate in activities for specific days to promote the Welsh language, such as Shwmae Su'mae Day, Welsh Music Day, Saint David's Day, etc. with Denbighshire County's Council corporate communication team also promoting these activities.

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Since 2017, it has also been an expectation for all schools in Denbighshire to include in their annual governors report to parents what they have done to improve the Welsh language against the outcomes in the plan.

### **Partners**

In Denbighshire, the Urdd have led on undertaking a mapping exercise to identify the opportunities available for school age children to use their Welsh language skills outside of the classroom. Urdd, Menter Iaith, the Young Farmers and Denbighshire Youth Service are providers in Denbighshire.

Two Urdd officers work specifically within Denbighshire due to the Service Level Agreement of Denbighshire Youth Service and a Gwynt y Mor grant. 229 Denbighshire children competed in the 2020 Eisteddfod T. Over the summer of 2020 in partnership with Denbighshire Social Services and Denbighshire Youth Service the Urdd provided a Summer Club in Prestatyn and Ruthin for 6 weeks.

Activities have been organised for specific days to promote the Welsh language, such as Shwmae Su'mae Day, Welsh Music Day, St David's Day.

### **Siarter Iaith**

Denbighshire want to encourage children and young people to use Welsh in all aspects of their lives. All our Welsh Medium primary schools are implementing and following the Siarter Iaith framework.

Since launching the Siarter Iaith in our Welsh medium schools and the Cymraeg Campus in our English medium schools, innovative work has been undertaken by the schools to increase the social use of Welsh within the whole school community.

The following schools have achieved the Gold award:

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Achieved in 2018	Achieved in 2019
Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch	Ysgol Y Llys
Ysgol Gymraeg y Gwernant	Ysgol Twm o'r Nant
	Ysgol Tremeirchion
	Ysgol Carreg Emlyn
	Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy
	Ysgol Pen Barras
	Ysgol Pant Pastynog
	Ysgol Henllan
	Ysgol Pentrecelyn
	Ysgol Dewi Sant
	Ysgol Betws GG
	Ysgol Bro Elwern

There are 33 English medium primary schools following Cymraeg Campus Welsh framework. Currently 23 schools have achieved the Bronze award but none have yet achieved Silver or Gold.

### **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

Ensure that all schools have strong action plans to raise standards in the Welsh language. All schools are expected to include in their Individual School Development Plans, a priority indicating the development of Welsh language provision.

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The Council will work together with GwE to ensure that each school reports back regularly on the development of the Welsh language provision.

We will continue to facilitate the 'Language Charter' and Cymraeg Campus network in order to share ideas, good practice and the lessons learned. This will give schools the opportunity to collaborate and plan together. We will work to ensure that all Welsh-medium primary schools receive the Language Charter's Gold award. We will also extend Charter Language activities to the county's secondary schools.

We will aim to see more pupils studying subjects such as Physical Education through the medium of Welsh in order to increase the number of confident Welsh speakers who participate and work in the sports and leisure industry.

Ensure that schools continue to take part in activities for specific days to promote the Welsh language, such as Shwmae Su'mae Day, Cymru Music Day, St David's Day etc.

The Welsh Language in Education Strategic Group will work closely with the Welsh Language Forum in order to place the work of the groups side by side to work towards the same goal and establish closer contact with relevant stakeholders. Representatives from these two groups will form a strategic board to lead on setting quantitative targets for partners that will be included in an action plan and monitored. In addition, the strategic board will ensure that the action plan includes a scoping exercise in order to map and measure the impact of this outcome.

The council will appoint a lead partner to coordinate partners to ensure that there are opportunities in every area for young people to socialise in Welsh as a first and second language. Partners will include but not limited to the Urdd, Menter iaith, Young Farmers and Young people forum. The work will also involve promoting the available provision.

Mudiad Meithrin will lead and together with other partners will promote all the messages of early years provision to a wide audience - by being inclusive and ensuring that the shared message is suitable for everyone from any community by following Llais yr Iaith's guidelines. This will include sharing the Baby Steps podcast to a wider audience and promoting Welsh education in several languages.

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The Urdd will ensure that all the experiences of children and young people through its activities dovetail into the Curriculum for Wales and its 4 purposes. As a key partner in the delivery of this plan the Urdd will lead on providing extra-curricular and community opportunities that increase the use of Welsh among children and young people.

The Urdd will promote the availability of their residential experiences for pupils will provide opportunities to gain an all-Welsh 24 hour experiences and create positive, long-term memories of the Welsh language.

The Urdd will aim to increasing participation in its current and develop new activities in order to support the delivery of this plan. Participation in the Urdd Eisteddfod is open to every school regardless of language category and the level of participation will be measured throughout the length of this plan.

The Urdd will also be involved in post 16 provision to offer apprenticeship opportunities and employability skills within the local authority area.

The council will collaborate very closely with the community partners, such as the Urdd and Menter Iaith, to jointly plan a work program and coordinate activities that will support priorities in this plan.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

The development of the Curriculum for Wales will bring a requirement for all our children and young people to be ambitious, capable learners who: can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English.

Therefore during the ten year plan we expect to see increased confidence and pride amongst pupils in their ability to communicate in Welsh and English and in multilingualism in general. Ensuring that the Welsh language is relevant, lively, contemporary and inclusive will be crucial elements in the success of these actions during the WESP's duration.

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A programme of extracurricular social activities will have been designed in collaboration with our stakeholders, and will be in place to develop further the opportunities available for pupils of all ages to use their Welsh language skills.

All primary schools will have obtained Gold in either Siarter Iaith or Cymraeg Campus.

There will be a significant increase in the level of participation in Welsh medium activities throughout Denbighshire.

### Key Data

There are currently 15,951 pupils attending schools in Denbighshire, whilst participation in Welsh medium activities has declined during the pandemic with approximately 6% of pupils participating in activities through the medium of Welsh.

Increasing opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school									
2022 - 2023		2023 - 2024		2024 - 2025		2025 - 2026		2026 - 2027	
1595	10%	1914	12%	1914	12%	2233	14%	2393	15%
2027 - 2028		2028 - 2029		2029 - 2030		2030 - 2031		2031 - 2032	
2393	15%	2871	18%	2871	18%	3031	19%	3190	20%



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## **Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**

### **Where are we now?**

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018<sup>26</sup> (the ALNET Act 2018) was introduced in January 2018 and has been implemented from September 2021. The ALNET Act 2018 requires LAs to keep the arrangements for supporting learners between the ages of 0 to 25 with ALN under review and consider whether these arrangements are sufficient. It includes a statutory requirement to take reasonable steps to create a Welsh medium and bilingual system of support for learners with ALN.

In response to the new Act, the ALN provision provided within mainstream education will be coordinated on a cluster basis with a coordinator appointed for each cluster. In the schools of the Welsh clusters, the ALN provision is implemented in Welsh.

Denbighshire has two special schools namely Ysgol Tir Morfa, Rhyl and Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn, Denbigh and Pupil Referral Unit, Ysgol Plas Cefndy for learners who experience difficulties in mainstream provision. As a result of the County's geography, this provision uses auxiliary sites to reduce travel time. As the number of Welsh-medium pupils who receive their education in this provision is less than 10% of the schools' pupils, the numerical data will be included in the action plan.

During the previous plan work was undertaken to increase the number of Welsh speaking staff providing support within Speech and Language, Sensory and Behaviour support.

### **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

Continue with the approach of developing the appropriate support for each individual student. Neither Ysgol Tir Morfa nor Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn have a linguistic designation

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and any pupil who attends these schools would receive appropriate linguistic support in accordance with the decision of the admissions panel.

- Review existing provision and broaden the Welsh medium support available for pupils in Denbighshire schools.
- Develop new bilingual resources so that school staff can use their language of choice on an individual basis utilising the hwb platform.
- Develop the Welsh language provision for services such as Behaviour support.
- Ensure that any new staff appointed are able to speak Welsh where gaps in existing provision are identified. Where this is not possible, due to the professional skills expertise required, additional support would be made available to assist staff to learning Welsh within two years of appointment.
- Ensure that a sub group is formed to support and coordinate the actions of this outcome.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

To continue to have appropriate linguistic support in place for pupils with Additional learning needs.

To have a continuity plan in place to ensure that linguistic support is maintained through the natural turnover of staff.

Continue with the current position of ensuring Welsh language provision within our schools and appropriate resources and training to support this.

Continue to review the needs of learners' needs in Denbighshire in order to ensure effective forward planning.

Co-operate on a multi-agency level through the medium of Welsh where possible and appropriate.

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## **Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh**

### **Where are we now?**

The last census of the language skills of school staff found that 41% of all staff had a higher or above skills in Welsh. 16% of the staff worked in English medium schools.

Denbighshire schools have a long track record of upskilling staff using the Welsh Sabbatical course. Over the last 3 years 11 teachers from Denbighshire schools have completed the course with 6 Denbighshire teachers starting on the course in September 2021.

Currently there are 14 Head teachers over the age of 55. This represents 25% of the total number of Head teachers. The number of head teachers in Welsh medium schools over 55 is 4 which is 7 % of the total number of Head teachers and 29% of all Welsh medium schools.

32% of the County's teachers work through the medium of Welsh in their current job. Along with this, 8% of the County's teachers are able to work through the medium of Welsh, but they aren't currently.

### **Where do we aim to be within the first 5 years of this Plan and how we propose to get there?**

Work with Gwe and other organisations to ensure a clear career path and support for those teachers/deputy head teachers/senior teachers who wish to become head teachers within the authority and who are leaders in the Welsh medium sector.

Work with the authority's Human Resources department to review the suitability of its arrangements for planning the education workforce over the next 10 years period to ensure all policies and procedures are aligned with the plan.

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Ensure consistency by all schools within their School language designation e.g. the expectation when recruiting in terms of the Welsh language, the expectation regarding the use of Welsh, professional conduct and the Welsh language etc.

Establish a multi-departmental task force to develop and implement a new strategy to attract Welsh-medium staff to work within the education sector in Denbighshire. The task force will also recommend appropriate targets for planning the needs of the workforce and regularly analyse the demand trends for Welsh-medium teachers.

Identify and secure full support for the relevant workforce that will need up-skilling through the Sabbatical Scheme (especially staff in schools which are in a transitional category) over the period of the plan.

Explore the possibility of developing a new programme to support secondary teaching and support staff to learn Welsh or to gain further confidence in using the language.

Ensuring sufficient early year's staff to expand provision through working with Mudiad Meithrin to provide Cam wrth Gam Courses and Apprenticeships.

Ensure that the Council's Action Plan includes appropriate targets for increasing the proportion of the workforce which will be reported back annually.

### **Where do we expect to be at the end of our ten year Plan?**

Growth in the number of staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh and to teach Welsh as a subject.

A least 30 teachers will have completed the sabbatical course raising their skill level to higher or above. This included the teachers from transitional schools.

A robust and consistent recruitment process for the Education workforce which is aligned to this strategic plan.

The workforce is aware of its role in offering pupils the confidence to speak and use Welsh not only academically (oral, reading and writing) but also socially (being confident speakers who engage with and integrate in their communities).

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The whole workforce in Denbighshire Schools see the important role they have in allowing pupils to become confident speakers and who see Welsh as an inclusive and relevant language in a world of other important languages.

## How we will work with others to achieve our vision

The existing Welsh in Education Strategic Group will merge with the Councils Language Forum at the end of 2021 in order to oversee the plans implementation and evaluation.

This means:

- Every meeting will be divided into two parts with one part specific to Education.
- A minimum of 3 meetings during each year.
- An independent chair

The membership will include:

- Schools - Representation from Primary, Secondary and Special schools (No more than 7 representatives).
- Partners  
Urdd, Menter Iaith, Mudiad Meithrin, Denbighshire Governors Association, GWE, Welsh Government, St Asaph Diocese, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (More than Just Words), Welsh for Adults Centre, Young Farmers' Clubs, Gwawr Clubs, Coleg Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Cambria, Welsh Language Commissioner (promotion), Denbighshire Association of Voluntary Services, Merched y Wawr, Careers Wales, Popeth Cymraeg.
- Parent Representative
- Pupil Representative
- Denbighshire County Council's Lead Member for Education
- Denbighshire County Council Elected Members
- Denbighshire County Council Officers

# DCC Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

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