



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
**MERTHYR TUDFUL**  
**MERTHYR TYDFIL**  
County Borough Council



# WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

## 2022-2032

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## Foreword

This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) will run from September 2022 until 2032. Whilst focussing on increasing the capacity of Welsh medium provision across the County Borough it must be read alongside the Council's Welsh Language Strategy (WLS) as the two Plans are coterminous and the actions of one support the other.

We are excited by the ambition of this Plan which will be launched as the first Welsh medium school in Merthyr Tydfil – Ysgol Santes Tudful – celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It seems appropriate also that at the same time our third Welsh medium school will open its doors to its first nursery cohort.

We are proud to have one of the first English medium secondary schools in Wales to receive the Campus Cymraeg Gold Award in Merthyr Tydfil and increasing numbers of our schools are working on achieving success with this Award scheme. The engagement and success of our Welsh medium primary schools and increasing numbers of English medium schools in Yr Urdd Eisteddfod is testament to the commitment to the Welsh language across our education settings.

The next ten years will see education settings across Merthyr Tydfil working towards the Welsh Government target of a million speakers by 2050 and the actions of this Plan will go a long way to supporting that.

**COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON**  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL/  
PORTFOLIO LEAD FOR EDUCATION

**COUNCILLOR GERAINT THOMAS**  
WELSH LANGUAGE CHAMPION



## Our Vision is

Merthyr Tydfil: #Shwmaeronment – a place where the Welsh language is celebrated.

‘To continue to grow opportunities for Welsh medium education across the County Borough, supporting families and professionals to develop their skills in the use of Welsh so that they are more confident to use the language wherever they are.’

## We are committed to:

- facilitating the wider use of Welsh language both within schools and the wider community and championing the identity of Wales;
- working with partners to promote and increase the use of the Welsh Language in schools and across the County Borough;
- further developing provision for Welsh medium education;
- celebrating progress and commitment to developing the Welsh Language in all settings; and
- developing support for learners with additional learning through the medium of Welsh thus ensuring they receive equal linguistic opportunity.

## Desired Outcomes

Throughout the lifetime of this Plan and beyond we aim to make Merthyr Tydfil a place where:

- all learners have the opportunity to develop and increase their use of Welsh in everything they do;
- the benefits of bilingualism, cognitively, economically, socially and educationally is promoted throughout the community;
- all partners play their part in improving opportunities for and the use of Welsh within and beyond the learning environment;
- parents and the wider family are given every opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills so that can support their children’s language development;
- the school workforce has the opportunity to develop their competency and confidence to teach through the medium of Welsh;
- progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to Welsh medium maintained provision is fully supported and available for all;
- linguistic progression across curricular areas when transitioning from pre-school to primary education, from primary to secondary education and from secondary to further education or employment is supported and developed; and
- latecomers to Welsh medium education are supported to develop their skills so that they are able to continue their education through their language of choice.



## Link with Welsh Government Policies

### Curriculum for Wales

The new WESP will start as schools begin to implement the new Curriculum for Wales in which the role of the Welsh language is a key aspect. Within Merthyr Tydfil we are committed to promoting the Welsh Language as a subject, as a medium of instruction and as a language for informal communication

### Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

We aim to create, across the County Borough, which is a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

### Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers (2017)

Over the lifetime of the Plan, we aim to achieving a significant increase in the number of children and young people who access Welsh-medium education and have skills in Welsh, only by enabling more people to learn Welsh will it be possible to realise a million Welsh speakers across Wales. We will focus on the early years and families because the earlier a child has contact with the language, the more opportunity the child has to become fluent.

### 21st Century Schools and Education Programme

Merthyr Tydfil's investment programme will consider the WESP and will support the development of learning environments to allow successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes.

### Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

One of the core aims of the Act is to create a bilingual system of support for Additional Learning Needs. Services will be required to consider whether a child or young person needs an Additional Learning Plan (ALP) in Welsh; this duty will be an ongoing one, rather than a one-off decision. If they do, this must be documented in the Individual Development Plan (IDP) and 'all reasonable steps' must be taken to secure the provision in Welsh. A mechanism is included in the Act to remove by regulations the 'all reasonable steps' test, so that the duties to provide ALPs through the medium of Welsh become absolute over time. A series of strategic duties are also aimed at driving progress towards a bilingual ALN system. When reviewing their arrangements for ALN, and the extent to which those arrangements are sufficient to meet the needs of children and young people, local authorities will be required to consider the sufficiency of ALPs made in Welsh. If a local authority considers that the arrangements are not sufficient, including the availability of ALPs in Welsh, it must take all reasonable steps to remedy the matter. In doing so, local authorities should link their review of ALPs with wider strategic duties including those under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, which requires them to draft, consult on and publish WESPs demonstrating how they will aim to achieve the outcomes and targets for Welsh medium provision in their area, including for learners with ALN.



## Link with other Council Plans

### Welsh Language Strategy (WLS)

The ambitions of the WESP are a fundamental component of the Council's WLS. The two documents are coterminous and the action plans that sit behind them have a dual purpose supporting the Council to deliver on both the WLS and the WESP and will run alongside each other.

The Welsh Language Strategy of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has been written alongside this Education Strategic Plan. It outlines the priorities for facilitating and promoting the Welsh language in Merthyr Tydfil with all partners.

The growth in Welsh medium education in Merthyr Tydfil means more of our children and young people have the opportunity to become confident bilingual adults. Every child, regardless of whether they attend Welsh or English medium education, should leave school with Welsh skills.

The WLS is a strategy for Merthyr Tydfil as a whole, not for any one organisation. The current financial situation faced by all local authorities' means that delivering the outcomes of this Strategy will be challenging, but it also presents great opportunities and firm foundations upon which to forge new and stronger partnerships, which help the Welsh language to prosper across the County Borough.

Through the WLS there is a clear expectation for all staff to increase their levels of Welsh across the lifetime of the Plan.

### Raising Aspirations Raising Standards Strategy (RARS)

This Strategy is the key driver for education improvement across the County Borough and its ambition needs to be considered alongside those of the WESP. The RARS has as an overarching theme of Partnership and Collaboration and states ALL partners have a key role to play in enabling our young people to take greater responsibility for their own learning beyond statutory education when they move into adulthood as informed citizens. The creation of this partnership as an integral theme to the overall strategy will ensure better cohesion and a collective ownership to outcomes. This aspiration will also be key to the success of the WESP and the WLS.

### Economic

Growing the economy within Merthyr Tydfil is a key priority for the Council and its wider partners. We will engage with partners to ensure there are opportunities for young people to access work experience and apprenticeships through the Welsh language and through the ambitions of our WLS ensure that the use of Welsh is promoted across the economy in the County Borough.



# Welsh in Education Forum (WEF)

## Background

The Welsh in Education Forum (WEF) has been established in order to provide a forum to monitor the WESP of the authority which details how Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council will aim to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). It feeds into the MTCBC WLS and also the #Shwmaerionment Implementation Plan.

## Policy Context

The WMES sets out the Welsh Government's vision for an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh medium education. This is reflected in the MTCBC Welsh Language Strategy. The aim is to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The WEF is a key vehicle for creating an improved planning system for Welsh medium education outlined in the WESP.

The WESP provides the means for the Welsh Government to monitor the way in which local authorities respond and contribute to the implementation of the WMES objectives by:

- ensuring that every step of local authority education process includes full consideration of Welsh-medium education;
- extending provision where a need is identified on the basis of improved planning;
- ensuring the delivery of Welsh language support and Welsh medium support services on a Consortia basis;
- improving standards and extending the use of Welsh by children and young people,
- identifying ways of extending the use of Welsh across the community;
- demonstrating progress against the specific targets in the WMES; and
- contributing towards achieving national targets enshrined in the WMES.

## Objectives of the WEF

The objectives of the WEF are to ensure that MTCBC, within the WESP:

- contributes towards the development of the Authority's WESP;
- reflects the aims of the WMES;
- demonstrates clear progress towards achieving the WMES targets;
- illustrates accountability for planning Welsh medium and Welsh language education provision; and
- recognises and supports the sharing of good practice.

## Scope

The WEF will assess progress against the targets within the WESP.

The WEF is expected to play a crucial role in agreeing and implementing the authority's WESP.



## Approach

The Group will meet each term. The members of the Group are:

- Councillor (Welsh Language)
- Chief Education Officer
- Inclusion Manager
- Partnership Manager
- Equalities Officer
- Early Years and Family Support Manager
- Headteacher of Welsh-medium primary school
- Headteacher of Welsh-medium feeder secondary school
- Headteacher of English-medium primary school
- Representative from Menter Iaith
- Representative from Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Representative from Rhag
- Representative from Mudiad Meithrin
- Governing body representatives from Welsh-medium primary schools
- Representative from The College, Merthyr Tydfil
- Representative from Cymraeg i Blant / Welsh for Kids
- Representative from Cymraeg i Oedolion / Welsh for Adults
- Representative from Regional Consortium
- There is a standing invitation for a Welsh Government representative to attend meetings of the Group in an observer/advisory capacity (but not as a full member).

Substitutions may attend.

## Language Data

In the 2011 Census the number of Welsh speakers was 5,532 or 8.9%, (will be updated before this is published)

In the Annual Population Survey December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

- the number of people who could speak Welsh in the County Borough was 12,600 or 21.7%;
- 19.8% of the population could read Welsh;
- 18.2% could write Welsh;
- 23.9% could understand spoken Welsh; and
- the frequency of the number of people speaking Welsh in Merthyr on a daily basis was 8.1%.

Between 2015 - 2020 the number of cylchoedd meithrin ranged from 5 to 10 settings.

- The number of children attending a meithrin ranged from 106 to 209
- The number of children attending a Ti a Fi group ranged from 6 to 22
- The transition rates of children to Welsh medium education ranged from 57.1% to 79.3%
- The number of children receiving Welsh medium education ranged from 711 to 781, 12.3% to 13.3% of primary school population
- The number of pupils who have transferred from Welsh medium primary to secondary education ranges from 94.2% to 97.6%





## Objectives

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

Table 1:

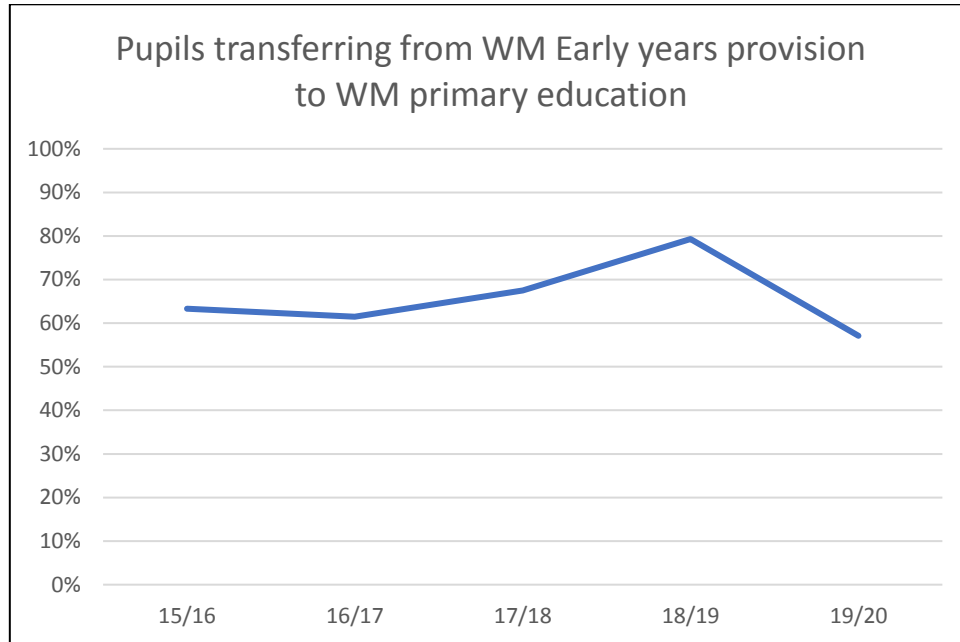
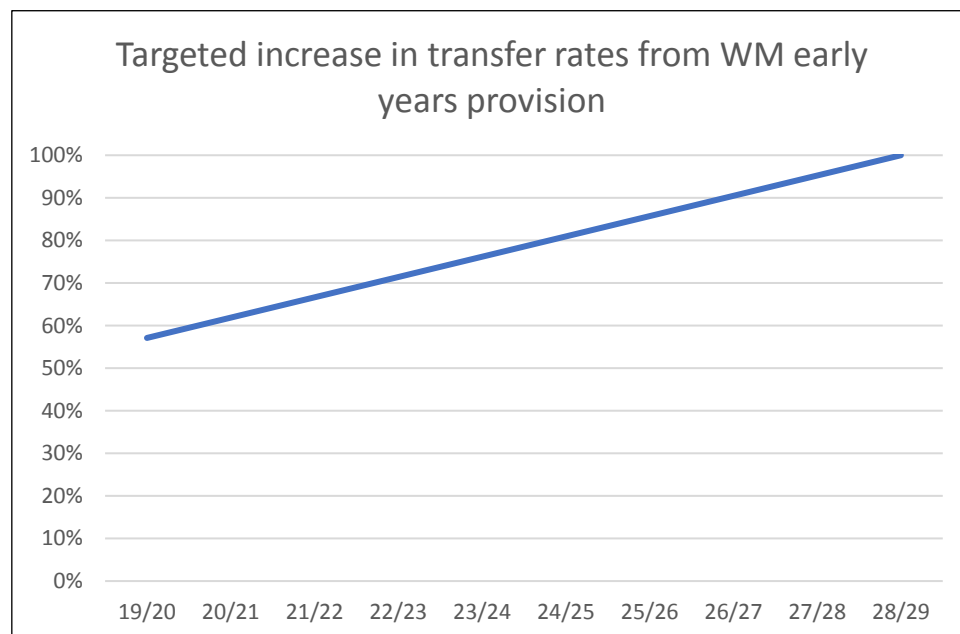


Table 2:



For the purpose of clear rationale the 'Commitments to Action' for Objectives 1 and 2 have been considered together.



**Objective 2:** More Reception Class children/five-year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Table 3:

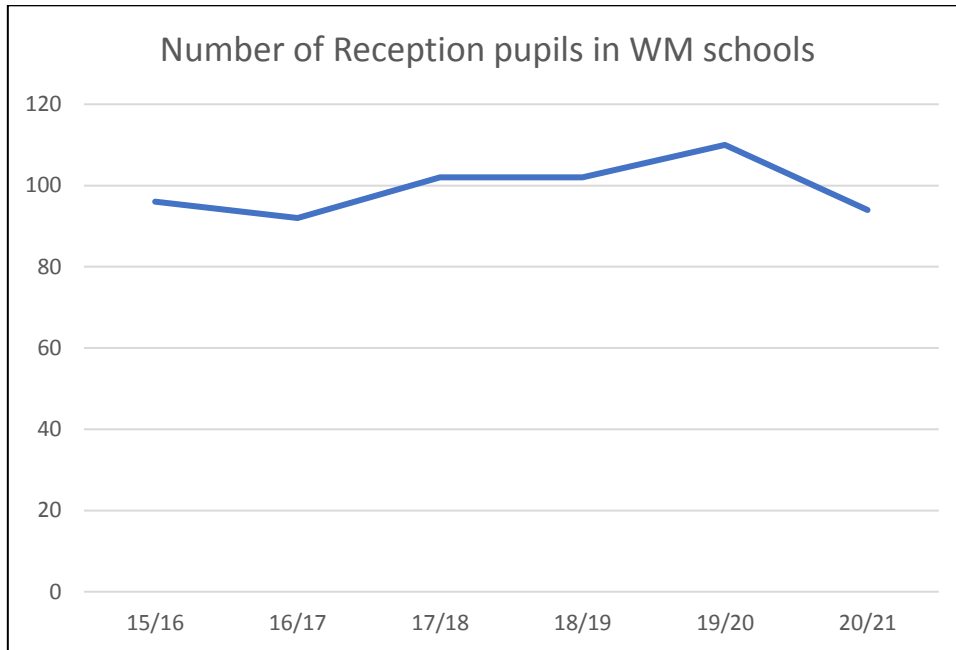
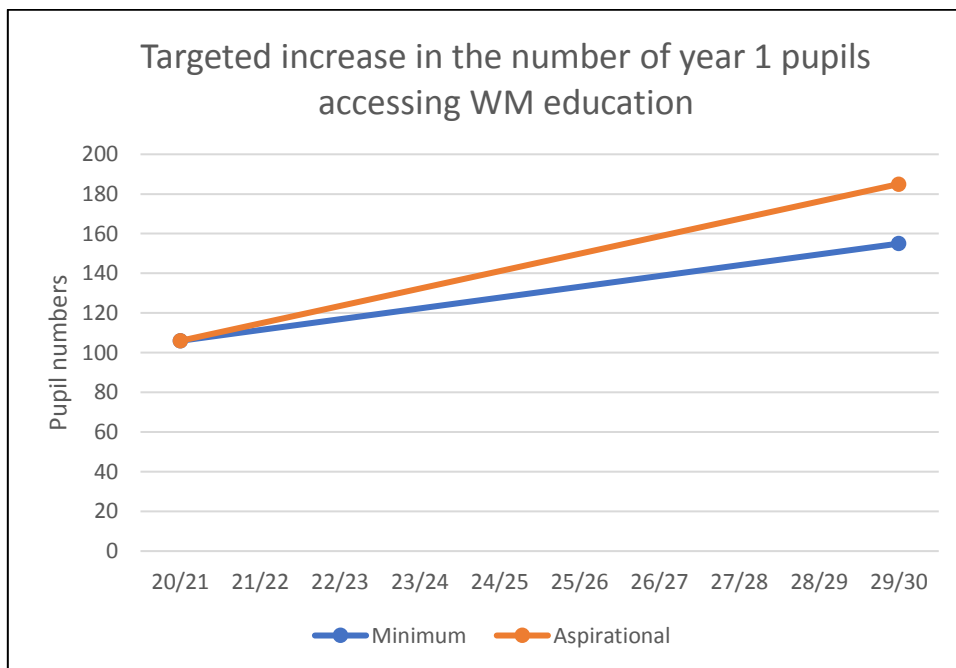


Table 4:



## Rationale

In Merthyr Tydfil pre-statutory education is provided by schools and non-maintained settings, supported by early years provision and Cylch Meithrin. The six Cylch Meithrin<sup>1</sup> in the County Borough all offer Flying Start childcare places and the current demand-led operating model allows for the number of places to be increased. Working with partners we will encourage parents to consider Welsh medium education for their children through promotional activities and supporting parents and families to learn Welsh themselves. Through our Early Years Team and Family Information Service we will provide support and guidance so that parents and carers are able to make an informed choice about statutory education.

We will work with partners to ensure our promotional material on the benefits of bilingualism continues to be relevant, using local case studies and examples of the positive impact of bilingualism to share with stakeholders. We will work with The College, Merthyr to ensure that there are opportunities for childcare qualifications through the medium of Welsh and work with employment services to ensure there are opportunities for Welsh speaking childminders to be secured. We will support schools and work with partners to develop opportunities for using Welsh outside the classroom. Currently we support latecomers by providing bespoke in-school packages of intervention. Within the lifetime of this Plan, we will investigate the practicalities and costs of implementing an immersion model, possibly in conjunction with other local authorities, however, there will be a need for political agreement and financial input.

## Key Partners

- Early Years Team
- Admissions Team
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Head of Planning and School Places
- Clwbiau Plant Cymru
- The College, Merthyr
- Employment Services
- Primary School Headteachers and Governing Bodies

## Commitments to Action

We will:

- Use the data from child-care sufficiency to ensure that demands for Welsh medium education can be met (**CSA June 2022, March 2027, March 2032**)
  - Increase the current provision of 3.5 form entry to 6 form entry **over the lifetime of this Plan**
  - Based on child-care sufficiency audit consider further expansion to Welsh medium education provision over lifetime of Plan, capitalising on grant funding
- Work with pre-school and child-care providers to increase the number of families who choose Welsh medium education by promoting the benefits of being bilingual
  - Run a marketing campaign with partners **over the lifetime of this Plan** using the [Being Bilingual Booklet](#) and other promotional materials – secure funding for this through grant applications
  - Ensure all settings are registered with the Charity Commissioner
  - **Within the first five years of this Plan** and working with Mudiad Meithrin, increase the number of Cylch Meithrin by at least three

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<sup>1</sup> Includes the new Cylch Meithrin Gurnos due to open in September 2021



- **Within the first five years of this Plan** and working with Mudiad Meithrin increase the number of Ti a Fi groups to at least five
- **Within the first five years of this Plan** increase the number of Welsh medium Registered Education Providers so there is provision within the catchment areas of the three Welsh medium primary school
- Use data from Mudiad Meithrin to ensure that children receiving Welsh medium early years provision have every opportunity to transfer to a Welsh medium school setting
  - Create explicit links with schools and clych meithrin – each school to be linked to at least three **by the end of this Plan**
  - Ensure all nursery places are full-time thus ensuring transport is available for all
- **Within the first three years of this Plan** secure budget to allow for immersion opportunities to be taken up for latecomers to Welsh medium education, linking in with the resources available from the local Education Consortium
- Ensure the [Admissions Booklet](#) is revised to include all opportunities for Welsh medium education
- **In September 2022** – open a new nursery provision on the Gurnos Nursery School site
  - Increase provision by one year group each year
  - **In September 2024** move school onto whole school site
- Set clear expectations for all commissioned services to develop the Welsh language capacity of their staff

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

Table 5:

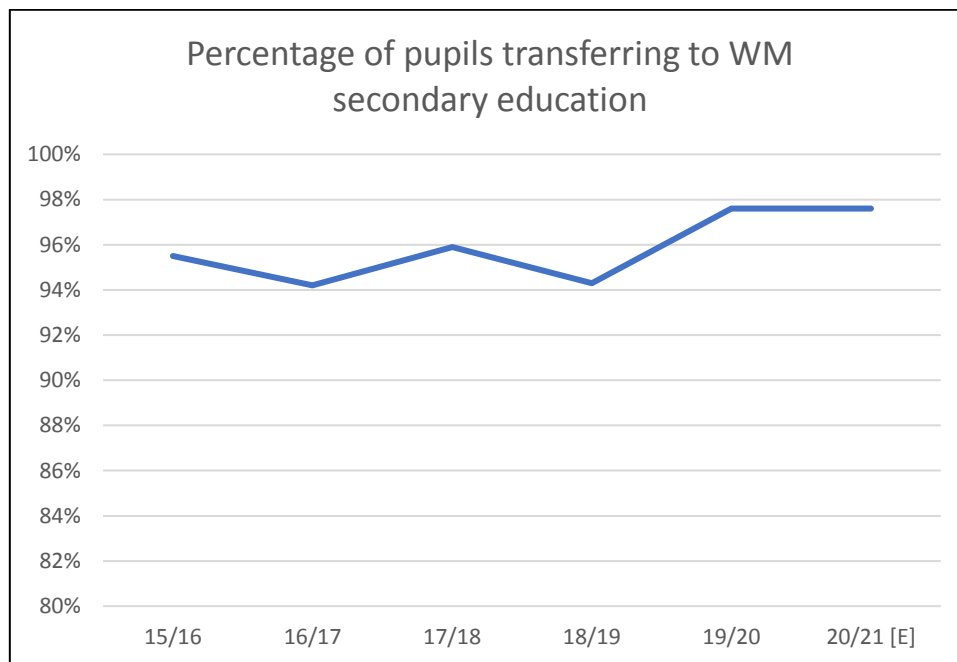
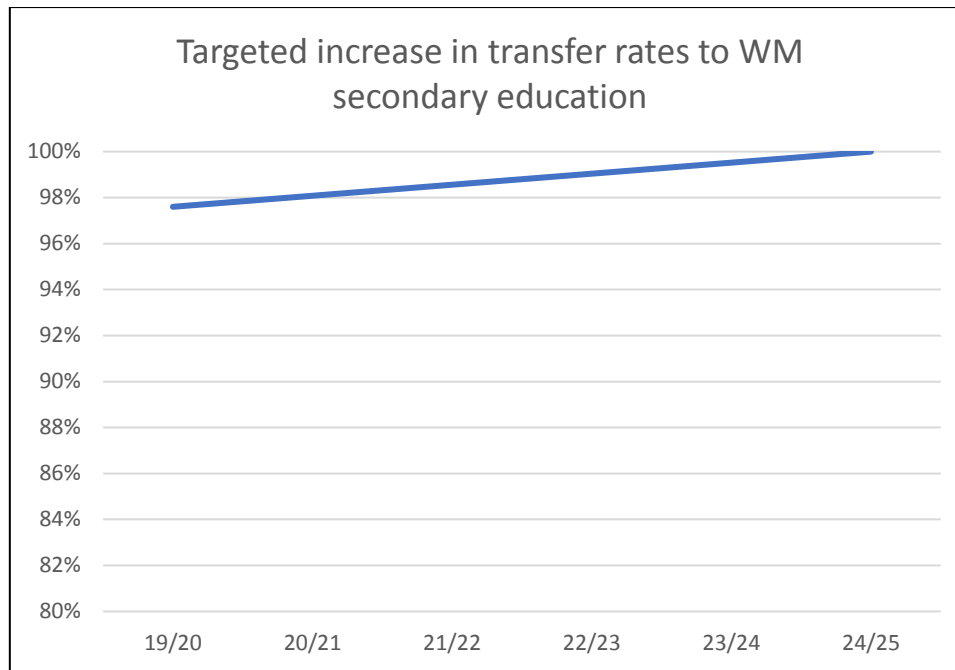


Table 6:



### Rationale

Currently nearly all children transfer from Welsh medium primary schools within Merthyr Tydfil to a secondary school outside the County Borough in Rhondda Cynon Taf. With the opening of the third Welsh medium primary school in the County Borough we will consider, subject to Council approval and the securing of revenue costs, a capital bid to Welsh Government to build a secondary provision within the County Borough footprint.

We will use grant funding opportunities to apply to increase the capacity of one of our current Welsh medium primary schools, this together with the new Welsh medium school which will open as a seedling school in September 2023, will ensure that the target of between 155 and 185 Year 1 pupils being educated through the medium of Welsh is met. Ongoing publicity will be key to this and we will ensure that the use of Welsh in the community is also celebrated so as to further encourage parents to see this as a viable option for their children.

We will work with Merthyr College to ensure that there are increased opportunities for young people to continue their learning post-16 through the medium of Welsh. We will also work with our economic growth partners to develop apprenticeship opportunities which can be undertaken through the medium of Welsh.

### Key Partners

- Admissions Team
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Officer
- Property Services
- Primary School Headteachers and Governing Bodies
- The College, Merthyr



## Commitments to Action

We will:

- Over the lifetime of the WESP promote the benefits of being bilingual through the marketing campaign:
  - Promote support for parents through social media
  - Work with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to ensure access to high quality staff
- Track the progression of learners from Welsh medium early years settings to Welsh medium primary education provision to Welsh medium secondary provision and onto Welsh medium post-16 provision.
- Increase the provision of primary Welsh medium education provision from 3.5 form entry to 6 form entry:
  - **By 2032** meet the target of between 155 and 185 pupils receiving Welsh medium education in Year 1 through the opening of the third Welsh medium primary school and agreed for expansion at Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug
- **Within the first five years of this Plan**, undertake a feasibility study on the setting up of a Welsh medium secondary provision within Merthyr Tydfil
- Ensure that the rates of transition from Welsh medium primary schools to Welsh medium secondary schools remains at least as high as it has been for the past five years (see Table 5)
- **Within the first three years of this Plan**, work with The College, Merthyr to
  - support the development of a wide range of opportunities for courses through the medium of Welsh
  - support the development of extra-curricular opportunities for young people to use their Welsh outside the classroom within The College

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

Table 7

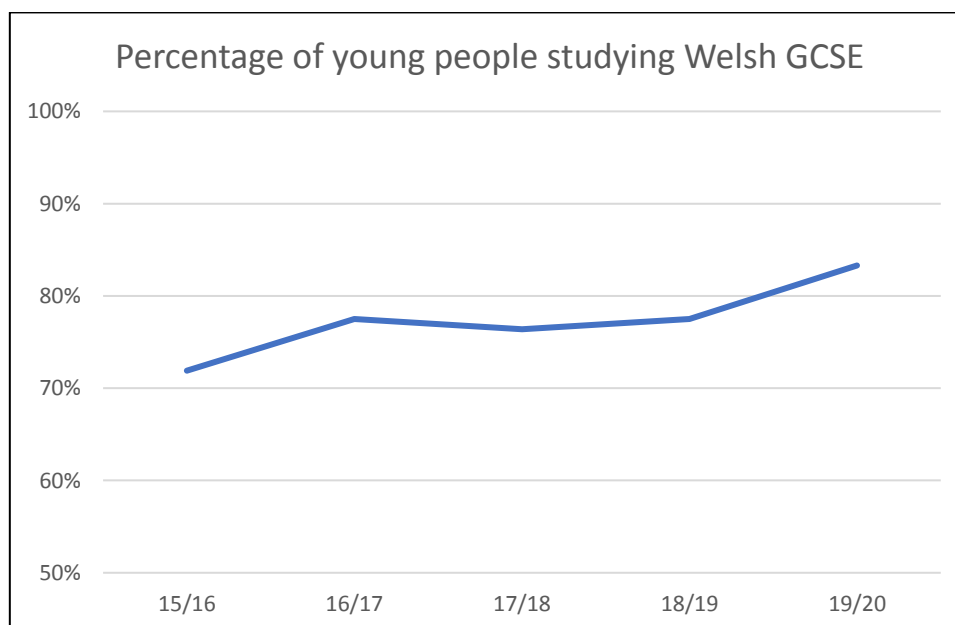
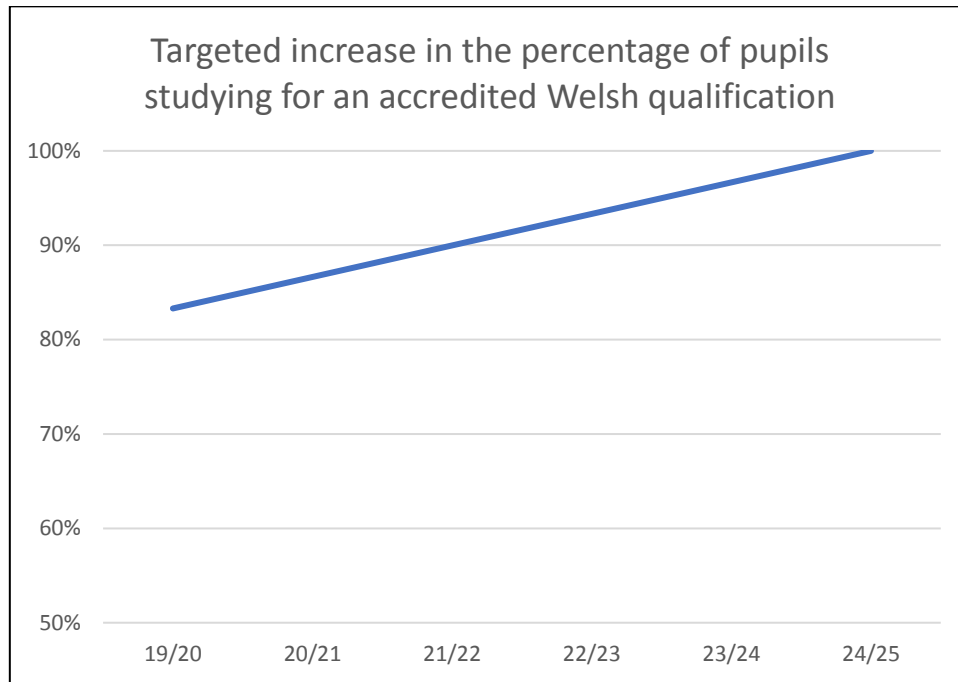


Table 8



### Rationale

The number of learners undertaking Welsh at GCSE level in Merthyr Tydfil has increased and the regional consortium will work with schools to ensure that all learners are given every opportunity to study for a qualification in Welsh. We will use best practise in both schools within the authority and wider to support all secondary settings in the expansion of Welsh accreditation. The College will expand the offer of Welsh medium vocational qualifications and we will work with them to scope the use of e-ysgol for wider opportunities for Welsh medium academic qualifications.

### Key Partners

- Central South Consortium
- Secondary School Headteachers and Governing Bodies
- The College, Merthyr

### Commitments to Action

We will:

- Ensure professional learning opportunities are available for staff in secondary schools to develop their skills in teaching of Welsh
- **In the first year of this Plan** develop a professional learning network for Welsh language teachers across the County Borough
- **Throughout the lifetime of this Plan** ensure all schools identify early those learners who wish to continue Welsh learning into sixth form
  - Work with Merthyr College to identify opportunities to increase pathways through the medium of Welsh
  - Work with Merthyr College to engage with e-ysgol



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

### Rationale

The 'Siarter Iaith' and 'Cymraeg Campus' Welsh Language Charters will be promoted, and we will celebrate and share good practice. We will continue to encourage a range of Welsh medium extracurricular activities which provide opportunities for learners to socialise through the medium of Welsh e.g., Mentrau Iaith, Yr Urdd. The Council's Welsh Language Strategy (2022-2027) outlines the ambitions of improving the use of Welsh in and around the County Borough and these ambitions also support the ambitions of the WESP.

### Key Partners

- Central South Consortium
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies
- Yr Urdd
- Active Merthyr
- Wellbeing Merthyr
- Partners on Fforwm Sirol

### Commitments to Action

We will:

- Promote Cymraeg Campus in all English medium schools
  - **By 2027** all EM schools to have achieved Gold Award
  - **By 2027** all WM primary schools to have achieved Siarter Iaith Gold Award
  - Use WM schools a model to support Welsh Language development in EM schools
- **In the first five years of this Plan** develop a Cymraeg Campus style Award for Early Years settings
- **In the first five years of this Plan** develop a Cymraeg Campus style Awards for Youth Services
- **Within the first three years of this Plan** develop After School and Holiday provision in all Welsh medium schools
- Link with Fforwm Sirol to promote activities within the community with schools and parents
- Ensure current partnership between Youth Services and Menter Iaith is developed further
- With schools, develop cluster-based eisteddfodau
- Establish wider links with Yr Urdd
- Plan and deliver at least two community wide events each year promoting the use of Welsh





**Objective 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

Table 9

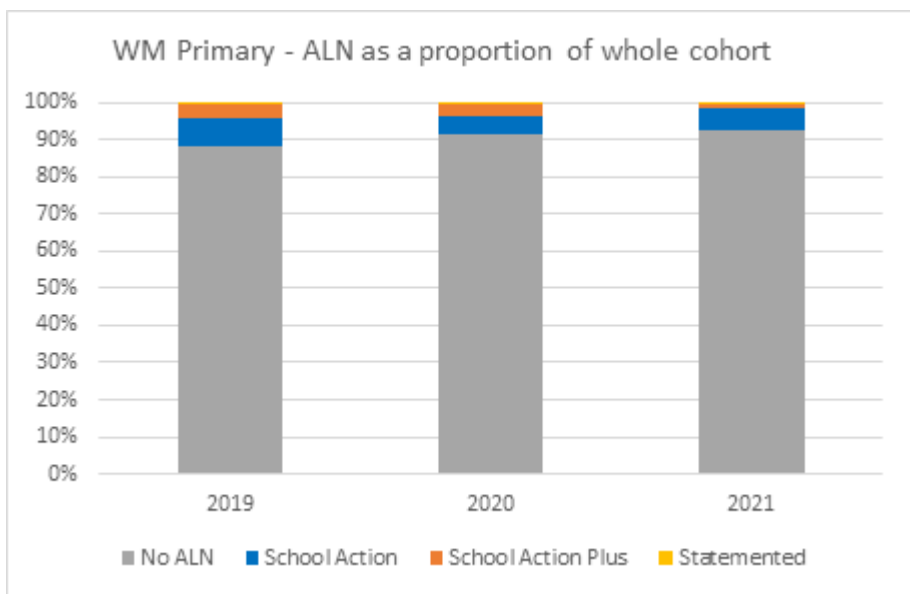
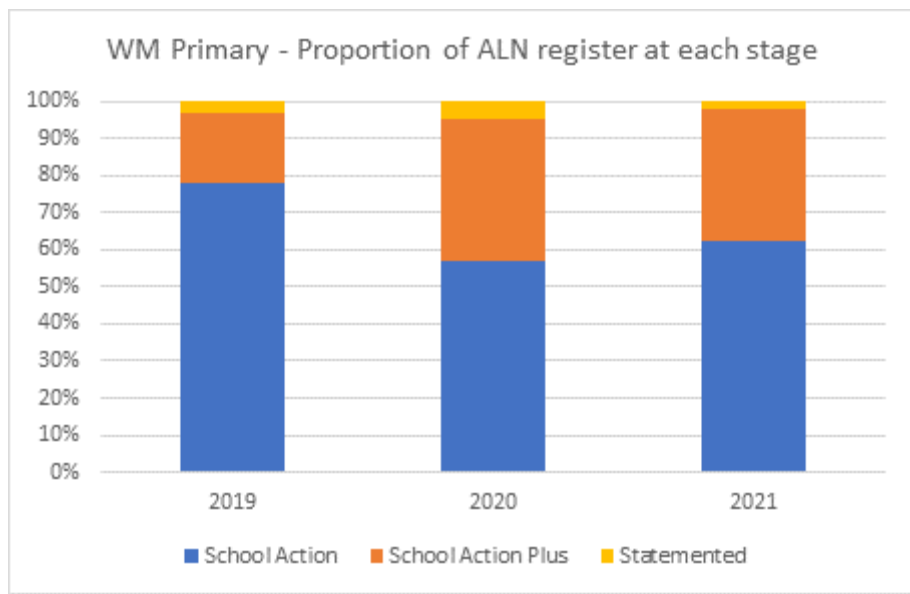


Table 10



**Rationale**

The Act places a duty on local authorities to provide support for learners who require Additional Learning Plans (ALPs) through the medium of Welsh. To support this, we will seek to secure funding from Council to open a Learning Resource Base at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Rhyd y Grug. This resource base will provide for up to 15 learners from across the three Welsh medium schools who have a range of complex needs.



The ALN team within the local authority will increase its own confidence in the use of Welsh through ongoing training and every effort will be made when employing staff to the central team to ensure they are confident in their use of Welsh.

Key Partners

- ALN Team
- Educational Psychology Team
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies

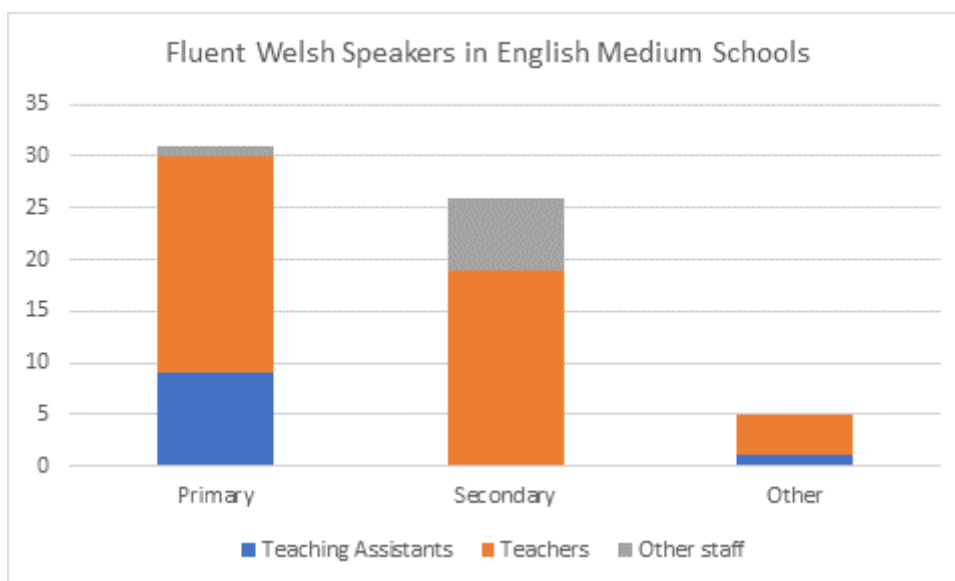
Commitments to Action

We will:

- **In 2023**, open a Learning Resource Base at Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug for up to 15 children with complex needs
- **Over the lifetime of this Plan** increase the capacity of the central workforce to support through the medium of Welsh
- **From September 2023** provide parents with information on support provided through the medium of Welsh
- **Within the first five years of this Plan** increase capacity within the Special School & Pupil Referral Unit for Welsh speaking learners

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

Table 11



Rationale

We will work with the regional consortia to promote the use of the Welsh sabbatical scheme to encourage more teachers to develop their confidence in teaching through the medium of Welsh. We will work to ensure all English medium primary schools have at least two members of staff who are confident in delivering through the medium of Welsh and that all secondary schools have at least four teachers.



We will encourage all Learning Support Assistants to undertake pathways to improve their Welsh skills both through local authority provision and also the regional consortia. We will work with Merthyr College to develop further opportunities for learners on their Welsh medium childcare courses to receive placements in Welsh medium provisions. We will work with Merthyr College and the regional consortia to develop a school-based training programme for Learning Support Assistants wanting to work in Welsh medium schools.

#### Key Partners

- Central South Consortium
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies
- The College, Merthyr
- Learn Welsh Morgannwg
- Employment Team

#### Commitments to Action

We will:

- **Over the lifetime of the Plan** encourage at least one member of staff from each school to undertake the Welsh Language Sabbatical
- Ensure all staff within Welsh medium schools access the appropriate professional learning to increase their skills including leadership skills
- **Within the first five years of this Plan** develop a school-based Learning Support Welsh language training provision for
  - Staff in Welsh medium schools
  - Staff in English medium schools
- By the end of this Plan
  - all English medium primary schools to have at least two members of staff who are confident in delivering through the medium of Welsh
  - all secondary schools have at least four Teachers outside the Welsh department who are confident in delivering through the medium of Welsh



## Progress against previous Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

Within the last WESP there were five objectives

1. **More seven-year-old children are being taught through the medium of Welsh.**
2. **More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school.**
3. **More students aged 14-19 study subjects through the medium of Welsh.**
4. **More students with advanced skills in Welsh.**
5. **Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD).**

During the lifetime of the Plan the local authority identified additional classroom space within the two Welsh medium Primary schools. This resulted in an increased capacity in Ysgol Santes Tudful from 390 to 420 and in Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug from 210 to 260. This equates to 4.9% (20 pupils) of surplus spaces in Ysgol Santes Tudful and 15% (33 pupils) in Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug. This is in line with the local authority's revised target of an increase of 55 pupils by 2021 set by Welsh Government.

Ensuring that proposals for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools included full consideration of the Welsh medium education has led to increased capacity in both Welsh medium schools and for plans to establish a Welsh medium seedling school. The new Welsh medium seedling school will start taking pre-nursery children in January 2022. On January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 Council approved the following:

- The revenue budget required to deliver a seedling Welsh Medium Primary school, be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) from 2021 onwards
- An estimated £60k to be set aside within the MTFP in 2021/2022 rising to an estimated £140k in financial year 2024/2025.

Mudiad Meithrin (MM) have secured funding to develop a Cylch Meithrin Gurnos to support this seedling school, this is also opening in January 2022.

Ensuring collaborative working through the Consortia has led to half of the English medium primary schools engaging with Cymraeg Campus. The aim of this is to develop the provision of Welsh across the school and beyond the classroom. Both Welsh and English medium schools are continuing to engage with the "Language Charter" to promote the use of Welsh outside of the classroom. The current position of our schools is:

### **Siarter Iaith – Silver Award**

- Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug
- Ysgol Santes Tudful

### **Cymraeg Campus – Bronze Award**

- Heolgerrig Community School
- Cyfarthfa Park Primary
- Gwaunfarren Primary School
- Coed y Dderwen Primary School

### **Cymraeg Campus – Gold Award**

- Pen y Dre High School



Beneficial partnerships have been established between English and Welsh medium primary schools during 2018-2019. This involved Ysgol Santes Tudful working with Pantyscallog Primary School (the promotion of Welsh through PE) and Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug working with Troedyrhiw Primary School (local history and language immersion). During the Summer term 2021, pupils from Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug supported a sports event at Afon Taf High School for cluster schools by providing the announcements in Welsh. Funding for latecomers to the Welsh language has been identified from the Central South Consortium (CSC) to which seven pupils benefitted in 2018-2019.

A Being Bilingual Booklet has been produced and is being used widely across the County Borough. This has been hyperlinked to the Learning Department's Admission Booklet.

Welsh Medium resources are routinely shared with schools by the Inclusion lead officer and via Corporate Communications.

Progression rates from Early Year's settings to mainstream are monitored to ascertain the reasons for low and high rates. These are not as high as expected and further work needs to be undertaken in this area.

As of May 2019, the Urdd had five After School Clubs taking place at Ysgol Santes Tudful, Ysgol Rhyd Y Grug, Dowlais Primary School, Abercanaid Community School and Pantyscallog Primary School. The Urdd has also run a 'Welsh on the Yard' project with five primary schools from the Afon Taf cluster. The Urdd was developing connections with Ysgol Rhydywaun to identify young people who will come out to support in the clubs in the future. Funding to support the employment of the apprentice was supported by MTCBC. There is no longer funding for this role.

Transfer rates to the Welsh medium secondary school in Rhondda Cynon Taf are good, ranging from 96 - 98% and those onto KS3-4 was consistent at 100% until this past year which has seen a small number of KS3 pupils request mid-term transfers to English medium secondary schools within Merthyr Tydfil.

In 2019 there were 42 students in Years 12 & 13 from Merthyr Tydfil studying at least one course at L2/L3 through the medium of Welsh.

Mudiad Meithrin has developed a presentation for Years 9,10,11 and Further Education students regarding the opportunities to work in Early Years and the benefits of bilingualism. On 7th December 2018 Mudiad Meithrin and pupils of YGG Rhydywaun attended a careers fair at the University of South Wales.

The CSC provides support for Teaching Assistants (TA) and Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA) both in terms of developing Welsh and by having responsibility for HLTA induction. During the lifetime of this WESP four teachers have undertaken a year's sabbatical to enable them to teach through the medium of Welsh.

At secondary level, Gyda'n Gilydd provides support in developing non-specialists to teach another subject up to GCSE standard. Concerns are raised in some subjects including mathematics, science and English at secondary level. We are constantly working with our stakeholders to support them. In Merthyr, one Deputy Headteacher from a Welsh medium primary school has attained the National Professional Qualification for Headship.



## Key Performance Data

### 1. Number of young people who have studied Welsh GCSE over the past five years as a number and percentage of the cohort

Year	No. of young people studying Welsh GCSE	% of young people studying Welsh GCSE
2020	458	83.3%
2019	451	77.5%
2018	436	76.4%
2017	435	77.5%
2016	442	71.9%

The numbers above are based on the number of pupils assessed at the end of Year 11 in Welsh second language.

GCSE Welsh Second Language was revised for first teaching in September 2017 replacing the existing GCSE and Applied GCSE full and short courses. Numbers prior to 2019 include pupils studying GCSE full and short course, numbers from 2019 show pupils studying the revised GCSE.

### 2. Number of three year olds accessing Welsh medium education for past five years (ie lifetime of WESP) as a number and percentage of the cohort

Year	No. of Nursery pupils (September start)	No. of rising 3's (January start)	No. of rising 3's (after Easter start)	No. of Nursery and rising 3's	% All Nursery and rising 3's
2019/2020	96	21	4	121	12.2%
2018/2019	108	26	0	134	12.9%
2017/2018	101	39	0	140	13.9%
2016/2017	96	29	0	125	12.8%
2015/2016*	99	16	Unknown	115	13.1%

\*Admissions for 2015/2016 were not recorded on Capita One, therefore it is not possible to include rising 3's starting after Easter.

### 3. Number of reception children accessing Welsh medium education for past five years as a number and percentage of the cohort

Year	No. of Reception pupils	% Reception pupils
2019/2020	110	14.2%
2018/2019	102	14.0%
2017/2018	102	13.9%
2016/2017	92	12.5%
2015/2016	96	12.8%



**4. Number of children transferring to Ysgol Rhydywaun for past five years (and the number who haven't ie transferred to English medium) as a number and percentage of the cohort**

Year	No. transferred to Ysgol Rhydywaun	% transferred to Welsh medium	No. transferred to English medium	% transferred to English medium
2019/2020	81	97.6%	2	2.4%
2018/2019	83	94.3%	5	5.7%
2017/2018	70	95.9%	3	4.1%
2016/2017	81	94.2%	5	5.8%
2015/2016	64	95.5%	3	4.5%

**5. Number of children who have transferred from Welsh medium to English medium over past five years in primary schools**

Year	No. pupils transferring from Welsh to English medium
2019/2020	16
2018/2019	9
2017/2018	14
2016/2017	6
2015/2016	14

**6. Number of children accessing Welsh medium education in Merthyr over the past five years**

Year	No. of pupils	% of primary school population	% of all school population
2019/2020	781	13.3	8.7
2018/2019	783	13.1	8.7
2017/2018	762	12.9	8.5
2016/2017	735	12.7	8.4
2015/2016	711	12.3	8.1

