

Appendix B

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIS) enables Bridgend County Borough Council to consider the principles and requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Proposal Name:	School Admissions Policy 2023/2024
Directorate	Education and Family Support
Corporate Director	Corporate Director (Education and Family Support)
Officer responsible	Group Manager Business Support
Brief Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The local authority has a statutory responsibility to determine and publish a school admissions policy each year.• The local authority is the admissions authority for maintained community and voluntary controlled schools in Bridgend.
Date	28/02/2022
Who does this proposal affect?	Service Users (ie pupils, parents/carers), schools and the wider community.
What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?	<p>The entry of children to schools is controlled and administered by an 'admission authority'. In the case of community schools in Bridgend, the admission authority is Bridgend County Borough Council (the local authority).</p> <p>Where the local authority is the admission authority, a school's governing body is under a duty to implement the local authority's decisions on admission applications, and to act in accordance with the local authority's admission arrangements.</p> <p>The local authority has no arrangements for the provision of education at schools not maintained by the local authority.</p> <p>In accordance with statutory requirements, the local authority policy is that every child should have the opportunity to learn and use the Welsh language.</p> <p>With regards to school admissions, provision is made for this in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The teaching of Welsh as a second language in English-medium schools.2. Welsh-medium education at four Welsh-medium primary schools and one Welsh-medium secondary school.
Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups?	The local authority fully supports the wishes of families for their children to attend Welsh-medium schools and ensures that if a school place is not available in the nearest suitable Welsh-medium school, then subject to the application of the distance criteria identified in the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy, school transport to the next nearest suitable Welsh-medium School in Bridgend will be provided.

Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned

The ONS Annual Population Survey (Year ending 31 September 2021) identifies that in Bridgend 24,500 people say that they can speak Welsh (ie 17.8%). This compares to the all-Wales percentage of 29.2% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the tables below.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Can read Welsh	16.9%	25.9%
Can write Welsh	15.9%	23.8%
Can understand spoken Welsh	21.2%	33.7%

The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.

Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)		
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Speak Welsh daily	6.3%	15.2%
Speak Welsh weekly	3.1%	5.2%
Use it less often or never	6.9%	7.3%

Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?

Neutral

Describe why it will have a neutral impact on the Welsh language.

Admission to the Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend is controlled by the provisions and criteria specified within the School Admissions Policy for the relevant year. This applies to nursery, primary and secondary school pupils applying for school places at any Welsh-medium school in Bridgend.

The local authority will normally only admit up to the school's published admission number for a relevant year group eg reception.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply oversubscription criteria, in order of priority, to allocate the places available. This applies to both English and Welsh-medium school places equally.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The local authority fully supports the wishes of families for their children to attend Welsh-medium schools and ensures that if a school place is not available in the nearest suitable school, then subject to the application of the distance criteria identified in the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy, school transport to the next nearest suitable Welsh-medium school in Bridgend will be provided.

<p>What action(s) can you take to better contribute to positive impacts?</p>	<p>The School Admissions Code does not allow the local authority to treat access to Welsh-medium school places differently to those in English-medium schools.</p> <p>There are, however, opportunities for the promotion of the Welsh language through engagement with the maintained and non-maintained education sectors, in particular early engagement activities with parents/carers and signposting parents/carers to Welsh language classes/courses.</p>
<p>Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Increase participation in the Welsh language by offering the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh. In addition, they will be encouraged to signpost parents/carers to Welsh language classes.</p> <p>School's facilities could be used for Welsh language activities that will increase participation. There is an opportunity to create a partnership with agencies including 'Welsh for Adults', 'Menter Bro Ogwr' (Bro Ogwr Welsh Language Initiative) and Bridgend College for members of the community to learn Welsh and undertake activities through the medium of Welsh. In addition, Welsh language courses are offered by Learn Welsh Glamorgan who deliver courses online and locally in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf on behalf of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. They also offer a range of online taster courses that anyone can access and offer Sadwrn Siarad sessions periodically.</p> <p>Activities through the medium of Welsh are primarily offered by Menter Bro Ogwr although Bridgend Learning Partnership also aims to offer learning activities where they are able to, and where activities prove viable in terms of numbers.</p> <p>Learners will have an opportunity to undertake extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh.</p>
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The Council is committed to promoting the Welsh language, increasing the number of Welsh schools and number of Welsh-medium school places, as detailed in Bridgend County Borough Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).</p>
<p>Compliance with the Council's Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>The School Admissions Policy is provided bilingually as are the minutes and reports provided by the School Admissions Forum.</p>