

Proposed School Admissions Policy 2025-2026 - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Stage 1 – Information Gathering	
NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for evidence to support your views . Please see Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance for more information on data sources.	
Proposal Name:	School Admissions Policy 2025-2026
Department	Education and Family Support
Service Director	Mr Lindsay Harvey – Corporate Director
Officer Completing the WLIA	Emma Giles – Senior Pupil Services Officer
Email	Emma.Giles@bridgend.gov.uk
Phone	01656 643449
Brief Description	The proposed school admission arrangements for the 2025-2026 school year for those schools in Bridgend for which the local authority is the admission authority (that is, all community schools maintained by the local authority with the exception of the voluntary-aided schools).
Date	01/11/2023
Please outline who this proposal affects? (Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)	Learners and their families/carers. Schools. The wider community.

<p>What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>The admission of learners to those schools, for which the local authority is the admission authority, in accordance with all relevant legislation and in a manner that is fair and timely.</p> <p>The local authority is the admission authority for all Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend.</p>
<p>Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.</p>	<p>All learners for whom education is sought at a school for which the local authority is the admission authority. Therefore, this includes all learners for whom education through the medium of Welsh is preferred.</p> <p>Schools for which the local authority is the admission authority.</p> <p>The wider community.</p>
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned</p>	<p>The ONS recently published the data for the national Census 2021 (Census date 21 March 2021). The 10-year Census provides the most complete information about the Welsh language skills of the population.</p>

	<p>The Census data identifies the following:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1133 268 2040 571"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3" data-bbox="1133 268 2040 308">Welsh Language Skills of the population (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="1133 308 1534 379"></th> <th data-bbox="1534 308 1809 379">Bridgend County Borough</th> <th data-bbox="1809 308 2040 379">Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="1133 379 1534 419">Can speak Welsh</td> <td data-bbox="1534 379 1809 419">9%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 379 2040 419">17.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1133 419 1534 496">Can understand spoken Welsh</td> <td data-bbox="1534 419 1809 496">12.4%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 419 2040 496">21.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1133 496 1534 536">Can read Welsh</td> <td data-bbox="1534 496 1809 536">10%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 496 2040 536">16.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="1133 536 1534 571">Can write Welsh</td> <td data-bbox="1534 536 1809 571">7.8%</td> <td data-bbox="1809 536 2040 571">14.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="1133 616 2040 756">With regards to combinations of Welsh language skills (for example, can speak Welsh but cannot read or write Welsh), 15.2% of the population of Bridgend identified as having some combination of skills, compared to 24.4% for the whole of Wales.</p> <p data-bbox="1133 801 2040 903">The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of the population of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.</p>	Welsh Language Skills of the population (%)				Bridgend County Borough	Wales	Can speak Welsh	9%	17.3%	Can understand spoken Welsh	12.4%	21.3%	Can read Welsh	10%	16.8%	Can write Welsh	7.8%	14.8%
Welsh Language Skills of the population (%)																			
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales																	
Can speak Welsh	9%	17.3%																	
Can understand spoken Welsh	12.4%	21.3%																	
Can read Welsh	10%	16.8%																	
Can write Welsh	7.8%	14.8%																	
Other relevant data or research	None.																		

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals. Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language eg staff, residents and visitors The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work	Neutral	Every year, the proposed policy is published in Welsh. For the required consultation process there is opportunity for any responses to the consultation to be received and considered in Welsh. There is no change to this process for the proposed policy for 2025-2026.	Proposed policy document and communications with consultees. Feedback received on the proposed policy for 2020-2021 was received in Welsh.	None.

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment				
Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?				
	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers</p> <p>eg Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / BCBC Five Year Welsh</p>	Positive	School admissions in Wales are governed by specific legislation and a statutory code, which aim to ensure that admissions to school are fair and timely. As is the case every year, the proposed policy for 2025-2026 covers the arrangements for admission of learners to those schools in Bridgend, for which the local authority is the admission authority - this includes all Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend. The arrangements described in the proposed policy accord with the legislative requirements. The	<p>Annual capacity calculations for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr.</p> <p>An ongoing demand for part-time Nursery places at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, may be unmet in future years if the capacity is not increased.</p> <p>In respect of the part-time Nursery admission rounds - for January and April 2021, 100% of the applications made in respect of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr had to be refused. 73.3% of the applications for January and April 2022 and 33.3% of the applications for</p>	None.

		<p>arrangements support and enable parents/carers to express their school preferences, whether those be for English-medium or Welsh - medium schools.</p> <p>Published admission numbers (PAN) for each school form an intrinsic and important part of school admission arrangements. If the PAN for any particular year group increases, this means that there is the opportunity to increase the number of pupils into that year group and school. For this admission year (2025-2026) the local authority is not proposing to increase the PAN at any school.</p> <p>For this admission year (2025-2026) the local authority is proposing a double mobile classroom at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr to provide an</p>	<p>January and April 2023 were also refused. Due to the requirement to convert any unfilled full-time Nursery places to accommodate the part-time Nursery applications, the impact on the full-time Nursery provision for the last four years is that there were no places available for an in-year admissions/transfers. The proposed increase in capacity by the provision of a double mobile classroom will alleviate this pressure and offer more Welsh-medium places.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

		<p>additional 60 Welsh-medium places, as an interim solution until the new Band B school is complete. This will help to meet the immediate demand for Welsh-medium pupil places in the area and increase the uptake of Welsh-medium places. It also contributes to meeting Welsh Government aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>This provision will be used to provided additional capacity for part-time Nursery provision at the school due to the demands for places at the school. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr only has capacity for two part-time nursery places and on an annual basis the local authority is required to convert any residual full-time nursery places, where available, to part-time places in order to meet demand. The</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

		proposed double mobile classroom would allow for an increased part-time nursery provision without impacting the full-time nursery provision.		
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</p> <p>eg status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time.</p>	Neutral	Statements above are applicable.	Statements above are applicable.	None.
<p>Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards</p> <p>eg increasing or reducing the Council's ability to</p>	Neutral	The School Admissions Policy is made available in Welsh every year, both at the consultation stage and the determination stage. There is, and will be, no difference for the	<p>Policy documents.</p> <p>Admission application forms.</p> <p>The local authority's website and 'My Account' where parents/carers can</p>	None.

<p>deliver services through the Medium of Welsh. Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>		<p>proposed policy for 2025-2026. School admission application forms are made available in Welsh every year, and this will be no different for 2025-2026.</p>	<p>apply for a school place online, are bilingual.</p>	
<p>Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>As in every year, the arrangements set out in the proposed policy for 2025-2026 continue to reflect and support the fundamental right of parents/carers to express their preferences for schools, in accordance with admissions legislation in Wales.</p> <p>The proposed policy for 2025-2026 continues to set out the actions that the local authority will take if places at any school are oversubscribed. There are no changes to the dedicated oversubscription criteria applicable to Welsh-medium schools. These</p>	<p>For the Reception admission rounds, the percentage of the total applications received for which the expressed first preference school was a Welsh-medium school increased each from September 2019, and has remained consistent for September 2023 as follows:</p> <p>September 2019 – 9.0% September 2020 – 9.1% September 2021 – 9.2% September 2022 – 9.3% September 2023 – 9.3%</p>	<p>The local authority is currently working with the Welsh Education Forum (WEF) and through the work of developing the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), to identify the benefits in the development of Welsh-medium school catchment areas.</p>

		<p>criteria are no less favourable than those for oversubscribed English-medium schools. The policy reflects that there are no catchment areas for Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend. However, this does not present a disadvantage for any parent/carer applying for a Welsh-medium school, as proximity to the school is used as the alternative oversubscription criteria.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
The local authority will continue to promote Welsh-medium education via the WEF and through the delivery of the approved WESP	Timescales agreed in the WESP.	The local authority and partners.
<p>Continue to offer discretionary free home-to-school transport for pupils residing over the statutory distance of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two miles for primary school pupils • three miles for secondary school pupils and • over 1.5 miles for nursery pupils <p>to their nearest Welsh-medium school, even if that school is not the nearest school to their home.</p>	Ongoing.	The local authority.
Progress a strong School Modernisation Programme with a significant increase in the number and availability of Welsh-medium nursery and primary school places across Bridgend.	In line with the delivery of the Band B 21 st century Schools Modernisation Programme outlined in the approved WESP.	
If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.		
What was identified?	Why is it not possible?	
Not applicable	Not applicable	

Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – WLS@bridgend.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – consultation@bridgend.gov.uk in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built-in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

Ongoing data analysis and reporting in respect of school admissions. An annual report is required by legislation and all admission policies are sent to Welsh Government by 15 April in the determination year.

Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts.

Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language – neutral impact.
Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers – neutral impact.
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language – neutral impact.
The Council's compliance with the statutory Welsh Language Standards – neutral impact.
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language – neutral impact.

No additional actions have been taken to better contribute to more positive impacts since the consultation on the proposed arrangements (which was undertaken in accordance with the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the statutory School Admissions Code 2013).

Stage 7 – Sign off			
Name of Officer completing WLIA	Emma Giles	Service Director name:	Lindsay Harvey
Position	Senior Pupil Services Officer	I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented with no amendments
			Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined
			Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language
Signature	<i>ESGiles</i>	Service Director Signature	
Date	08 November 2023	Date	