

Proposed Coordinated Admission Arrangements 2027-2028 - 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:	Coordinated School Admission Arrangements 2027-2028
Department	Education, Early Years and Young People
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 local authority is required to comply with the statutory requirements of The Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024. The local authority is required to formulate and publish a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools, (except school sixth-form places, maintained special schools and maintained nursery schools, but including boarding schools) within Bridgend County Borough Council.
Date	05/11/2024
Please outline who this proposal affects? (Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)	Pupils 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 pupils to those schools, for which the local authority is the admission authority and those voluntary-aided schools for which the governing bodies are the admission authorities, will still be processed 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 pupils for whom education is sought at a school for which the local authority is the admission authority or at a voluntary-aided schools for which the governing bodies are the admission authorities. Therefore, this includes all pupils for whom education through the medium of Welsh is preferred.</p> <p>Schools for which the local authority is the admission authority and those voluntary-aided schools for which the governing bodies are the admission authorities.</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="1131 268 2038 571"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Welsh Language Skills of the population (%)</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bridgend County Borough</th> <th>Wales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Can speak Welsh</td> <td>9%</td> <td>17.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can understand spoken Welsh</td> <td>12.4%</td> <td>21.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can read Welsh</td> <td>10%</td> <td>16.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Can write Welsh</td> <td>7.8%</td> <td>14.8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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>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%
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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 pupils, 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?
<p>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</p> <p>for example, staff, residents and visitors The rights of Welsh speakers and pupils to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Neutral	Every year, the proposed arrangements will be published in Welsh. For the required closed consultation process, there is opportunity for any responses to the consultation to be received and considered in Welsh.	Proposed co-ordinated admission arrangement document and communications with consultees.	None.

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment				
Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?				
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<p>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers</p> <p>for example, Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government’s Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / BCBC Five Year Welsh</p>	Neutral	<p>School admissions in Wales is governed by specific legislation and a statutory code, which aims to ensure that admissions to school are fair and timely. The proposed arrangements for 2027-2028 cover the co-ordinated admission arrangements for the admission of pupils to those schools in Bridgend, for which the local authority is the admission authority - this includes all Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend. It also covers admissions for voluntary-aided schools for which the governing bodies are the admission authorities.</p>	<p>Evidence can only be based on the data for the Reception admission rounds, as the co-ordinated admission rounds have not yet come into effect.</p> <p>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 remained consistent for September 2023, with a slight dip in 2024 as follows:</p> <p>September 2019 – 9.0% September 2020 – 9.1%</p>	None.

		The proposed arrangements are in accordance with the legislative requirements. The arrangements supports and enables parents/carers to express their school preferences, whether those be for English-medium, voluntary-aided or Welsh - medium schools.	September 2021 – 9.2% September 2022 – 9.3% September 2023 – 9.3% September 2024 – 7.9%	
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</p> <p>for example, 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	Every year, the proposed arrangements will be published in Welsh. For the required consultation process there is opportunity for any responses to the consultation to be received and considered in Welsh.	Proposed co-ordinated admission arrangement document and communications with consultees.	None.
<p>Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards</p>	Neutral	The co-ordinated admission arrangements are made available in Welsh every year, both at	Policy documents. Admission application forms.	None.

<p>for example, increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>		<p>the consultation stage and the determination stage. School admission application forms are made available in Welsh every year, and this will be no different for the co-ordinated admission arrangements.</p>	<p>The local authority's website and 'My Account' where parents/carers can 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>The co-ordinated admission arrangements will continue to reflect and support the School Admissions Policy in the fundamental right of parents/carers to express their preferences for schools, in accordance with admissions legislation in Wales.</p> <p>There co-ordinated admission arrangements do not impact or change the dedicated oversubscription criteria applicable to Welsh-medium schools. These criteria are no less favourable than those for</p>	<p>Evidence can only be based on the data for the Reception admission rounds, as the co-ordinated admission rounds have not yet come into effect.</p> <p>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 remained consistent for September 2023, with a slight dip in 2024 as follows:</p> <p>September 2019 – 9.0%</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>

		oversubscribed English-medium schools or voluntary-aided schools. The arrangements reflect 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.	September 2020 – 9.1% September 2021 – 9.2% September 2022 – 9.3% September 2023 – 9.3% September 2024 – 7.9%	
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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>Under the Home-to-School Transport Policy, September 2025, there will continue to be an offer of 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 to their nearest Welsh-medium school. 	Ongoing.	The local authority.
<p>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.</p>	<p>In line with the delivery of the Band B of the School Modernisation Programme outlined in the approved WESP.</p>	
<p>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.</p>		
<p>What was identified?</p>	<p>Why is it not possible?</p>	
<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	

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 co-ordinated admission arrangements are sent to Welsh Government by 28 February 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 local authority'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 (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024, 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
Signature	<i>ESGiles</i>		
Date	05/11/2024	Date	