

Welsh in Education: Action Plan 2017-21

Introduction

The Welsh Government's vision is to enable all learners to develop their Welsh language skills and to use the language confidently in everyday life. In order to achieve this vision, we must ensure that all learners benefit from a world class curriculum and that they enjoy learning and teaching that inspires them.

The purpose of *Welsh in education: Action plan 2017–21* is to set out our direction for the development of compulsory Welsh-medium and Welsh language education over the next four years. The plan was developed working with key stakeholders.

The plan is in line with the vision of *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers* and *Education in Wales: Our national mission, Action plan 2017–21*. The plan also carries out one of the actions in the Cymraeg 2050 work programmes, and builds on the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, published in 2010.

This is not the beginning of the journey; solid foundations have already been laid. However, as the education system embarks on wide-ranging reforms, it provides the best opportunity to ensure that the Welsh language is at the heart of developments.

Summary of the plan

In order to achieve the vision, we will require several phases of implementation to build sustainable provision for our future generations. The plan includes guiding principles which are intended to foster a common understanding of the role of teaching and learning Welsh, and through the medium of Welsh, in all schools in Wales and provide a foundation for future policy developments.

The plan includes five objectives and key actions to be delivered by 2021:

Curriculum, assessment and pedagogy

Developing a new Welsh language curriculum that will inspire learners to learn and use the Welsh language is crucial to realising our vision for children and young people in Wales.

One of the main actions is to develop develop one continuum for learning Welsh. This will mean that the term Welsh second language will no longer be used and that expectations will be clear for each learners, whether in a Welsh-medium or English school.

Enrichment and experiences in Welsh

We acknowledge that education alone cannot create confident Welsh speakers. Children and young people need opportunities to use the Welsh language in a number of contexts to enrich their learning and their awareness of Welsh as an everyday language.

Workforce planning, professional learning and leadership

Our new curriculum cannot be delivered without a well-supported, aspirational education workforce. We will support leaders and practitioners in Wales to be lifelong professional learners that continue to develop their Welsh language skills and have the knowledge and expertise to deliver the curriculum through the medium of Welsh and Welsh as a subject. We will also equip the workforce to develop our children and young people's appreciation of the Welsh language, its literature and history, and also its relevance to their everyday life in contemporary Wales.

Planning Welsh-medium education

One of the key transformational changes in *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* is to increase the number of learners in Welsh-medium settings. Planning for this increase needs to be done in parallel with the planning for the introduction of the new Welsh language curriculum. We need to consider how the journey that children and young people take along the languages continuum can be supported by using more Welsh as a medium of teaching.

Excellence, equity and well-being

We must ensure that all learners can have equal access to Welsh-medium education and experience the best opportunities to develop their language skills. Equity requires that we ensure that the system, at school, local and national level takes account of and responds to the unique challenges that present themselves to individuals or groups of learners.

The delivery of the plan will be underpinned by a comprehensive communication and engagement plan to ensure that all stakeholders are included in the development of Welsh in education and to engage and inspire stakeholders, parents/carers and learners to be a part of this exciting journey for Welsh language and Welsh-medium education in Wales.

In addition, as outlined in Education in Wales, Welsh Government will establish a constructive and robust evaluation and accountability framework. We will use this framework to assess and evaluate the success of the Welsh in education policy and delivery plan across the system, encouraging all partners to play their full part in delivering the best for our learners and teachers in all settings.