

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 20 February 2024

Title: Consultation Report Document in relation to the proposal to amend the Language medium of the Foundation learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis at Comins Coch Primary School

Purpose of the report: The purpose is for Cabinet to consider the consultation report and approve the publication of the statutory notice

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

A formal consultation was undertaken between the 15 September 2023 and the 17 November 2023 on the proposal to amend the language of the Foundation Learning and admit 3 year old pupils on a part time basis.

A total of 14 responses were received during the consultation of which 6 supported the proposal.

Following the publication of the statutory documents, a consultation report is attached which includes:

- A summary of the issues raised by consultees.
- Local Authority response by means of clarification of the concerns raised with supporting reasons.
- Estyn's response to the consultation.
- A response by the Local Authority to the Estyn report.

Appendix A

Consultation report including views by the School Council

Appendix B

Estyn's response to the proposal

Appendix C

Statutory Notice

If the proposal is approved by Cabinet, it must be published by way of a statutory notice.

The statutory notice must be published on a school day and the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires that anyone wishing to make an objection to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing or by email and sent to the Local Authority before the end of 28 days beginning with the day on which the notice is published.

Appendix D

Responses received during the consultation period.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

Community, Welsh Language and Equality impact Assessments completed as part of the statutory consultation- [statutory-impact-assessment-comins-coch.pdf](http://ceredigion.gov.uk/statutory-impact-assessment-comins-coch.pdf) (ceredigion.gov.uk)

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: Ensuring the long term sustainability of education in the community and ensuring a community of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Giving pupils the opportunity to contribute towards the target set by Welsh Government to increase the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050.

Collaboration: Discussions with the Governing Body have taken place whilst developing the proposal. The final decision will be made by Cabinet. The consultation involves extensive engagement and involvement with pupils, staff, Governors and the community.

Involvement: The proposal was subject to a formal statutory consultation which included targeted stakeholder engagement.

Prevention: Concerns raised are responded to through continuous and clear engagement with stakeholders and partners throughout the planning and consultation period.

Integration: The Welsh language is central to the operation of Ceredigion County Council and its strategic objectives. Community integration is central to all schools, creating an environment that support culture, heritage and the Welsh language. It is anticipated that the proposal will have no negative impact.

Recommendation(s):

Members are requested to consider the following:

- 1. To note the contents of the consultation report.**
- 2. To approve the publication of the statutory notice.**

Reasons for decision:

To approve the consultation response document and the publication of the statutory notice in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code – 011/2018

Overview and Scrutiny:

Presented to Learning Communities – Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30 March 2023

Policy Framework:

The School Organisation Code – Welsh Government Statutory Code – 011/2018
Welsh in Education Strategic Plan – 2022 -2032

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages

Finance and Procurement implications:

0.5 FTE additional nursery teacher funding

Legal Implications:

n/a

Staffing implications:

Additional 0.5 FTE nursery teacher

Property / asset implications:

n/a

Risk(s):

Failure to deliver the outcomes of the WESP 2022-32 if the proposal is not approved.

Statutory Powers:

School Organisation Code – Welsh Government Statutory Code – 011/2018

Background Papers:

n/a

Appendices:

Appendix A – Consultation report including views by the School Council

Appendix B – Estyn’s response to the proposal

Appendix C – Statutory Notice

Appendix D – Responses received during the consultation period

Corporate Lead Officer:

Clive Williams, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools

Reporting Officer:

Clive Williams, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools

Date:

9 January 2024

Appendix A

Consultation report including views expressed by the School Council

Ceredigion County Council Response to Consultation Ysgol Comins Coch.

Comments of support for the proposal.

Comment Received	County Council Response
The proposal will increase pupil's bilingual skills thus ensuring greater opportunity in the future.	Comment of support noted
This will increase choice rather than diminish it which will allow pupils to contribute to a multi-lingual Wales.	It is agreed that being fully bilingual increases choice rather than lessens choice.
Immersion is the only way to achieve fluency and it will provide opportunities and skills.	Comment of support noted
This supports local culture and encourages learners to stay in the area.	Keeping young people in the locality is a county priority and aligns with Ceredigion Corporate Strategy 2022-27, and with the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan 2023-2028.
This supports Welsh Language Goals.	Comment of support noted.
Needs appropriate funding to be successful.	Funding in the form of the Welsh Language grant and assistance provided by Welsh language Support Teachers will be allocated to support the proposal.
Help for parents.	The Welsh language lessons for parents will continue as part of collaboration with Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol. Resources will continue to be shared with parents via social media platforms and within the school website.
Use of contemporary and broad teaching methods, e.g Creative and expressive arts.	Comment noted.
Council should consider Welsh language learning pathway from preschool to 6 th form with vocational learning.	Comment noted.
Re-word to all nursery / three-year-olds.	Comment noted.
I propose a Welsh language stream in Penglais with a latecomers' immersion centre.	Suggestion noted.
Support for these transitioning schools.	Support will be continuous and constant in line with development plans.
Full support for the plan.	Comment of support noted.
Employability figures from Aberystwyth University show that bilingual students and those students who have studied through the medium of Welsh are more likely to be in graduate positions or studying post	Comments and statistics noted.

<p>graduate subjects within 6 months of graduating. This is in comparison with students who are able to speak Welsh but who have not studied through the medium of Welsh as well as those who are unable to speak Welsh.</p>	
<p>The proposal ensures linguistic equity.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
<p>This should be the first step towards moving the rest of the school along the continuum.</p>	<p>Linguistic progression will be a priority as pupils advance through the school.</p>
<p>The case for linguistic and educational support for future pupils is a sound one.</p>	<p>Comment of support noted.</p>
<p>As one of the strongest schools in the Aberystwyth area the school is a leader in quality primary-level education agree to extent provision to 3-year-old pupils on a part time basis as the need to increase pupil numbers to sustain the continued health of the school.</p>	<p>Comment of support noted.</p>
<p>We can only commend the proposal to introduce nursery provision in the three schools. We know from experience across Wales, that starting children early in the school gives them a the best linguistic foundation and the start of the journey towards bilingualism and for many, multilingualism. This is much easier at a young age.</p> <p>The addition of a nursery class also ensures the viability of the school as the nursery will naturally feed the reception class.</p> <p>Linguistically, starting in nursery is a strength. This gives pupils a natural progression and is advantageous to parents/guardians so that they can feel at home earlier within the school community. Perhaps the addition of a teaching assistant within the budget would support and benefit the proposal.</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated on a 0.5 teacher basis. The school will be able to use the funding in the most effective manner to meet the ever-changing circumstances of the school</p>

Comments against the proposal

Comment Received	County Council Response
<p>Impact on professional recruitment to the area. Recruitment of NHS and healthcare staff. What support and adjustments can be made to ensure providers can continue to attract suitably qualified staff to the area with respect to suitable schools with accessible language for their families.</p> <p>Low number of pupils from Welsh speaking families and a large number of children from medical profession and university employees, some of whom come to the area for a limited duration, all who are essential to the local economy and provision of social goods. If changes occur, seriously deterred from moving to the area. Essential choice remains an element of both primary and secondary education. Need more connection with the wider world, not less.</p> <p>For the local community to thrive, for foreign nationals working in the area, at least one option for English medium school be available for these parents. Without such provision difficult to recruit (and keep) people from abroad and a danger to developing an inward-looking mentality.</p>	<p>We do not agree that any gradual movement involving full bilingualism i.e., the ability to speak Welsh and English is a means of preventing anyone from moving to Ceredigion. There is no obligation for adults that come to live and work in Ceredigion to speak Welsh. We hope that people see worth in the Welsh and English languages if they come here to live. There is no need for any language to create suspicion. Speaking two languages (or more) is the norm in most of the countries of the world. No doubt the vast majority of people would see the worth of the exceptional bilingual and multilingual society that exists in Ceredigion. We accept that the Welsh language is not an international language but that is true of most of the world's languages. We do not see why that factor should be a barrier for pupils in Ceredigion and Wales to develop as bilingual citizens in both Welsh and English. The intention is not to create monoglot Welsh speakers or society. The aim is to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn to speak Welsh and English.</p>
<p>Teach Welsh but not at the expense of removing English from primary schools.</p> <p>Furthermore, it goes against government and Bilingual Futures policy to promote bilingualism and instead forces monolingualism.</p> <p>If children are educated wholly through the medium of Welsh have Impact assessment been made on of the effects on learning when transitioning to secondary education and later university education.</p>	<p>Within the Curriculum for Wales English is a mandatory subject and will not be removed from any primary school in Ceredigion. The objective of this proposal is to introduce Welsh at a younger age incrementally so that pupils become fluent in both languages.</p>

<p>Enforcing all schools to become Welsh medium in the Foundation Learning removes parental choice which is an undemocratic move.</p>	<p>The Human Rights Act 1998 gives direct legal effect in UK law to human rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR.)</p> <p>The right to education in Article P1-2 does not include the right to be educated in a language of one's choosing, not even if the preferred language is the child's first language. The right to education only goes as far as to secure the right to be educated in "one of the national languages", with the State having a broad discretion if there is arguably more than one "national language" from which to choose. As the only language with official status in Wales, Welsh is unquestionably a "national language" of Wales for this purpose. Therefore, where a country, such as Wales, makes provision for education, learners have the right to be educated in at least one of the national languages of that country, but there is no legal right to insist on being taught in a specific national language. Where there is arguably more than one national language, public authorities such as Ceredigion, have a broad discretion in deciding which of the national languages will be the medium of education in a particular region or area. Linguistic preferences, no matter how strongly held, are not "religious and philosophical convictions" for the purpose of Article P1-2. The right to respect for private and family life in Article 8 ECHR does not include a right to be educated in one's first language.</p> <p>The authority recognises the need for a broad multi- faceted approach to learning Welsh. Curriculum for Wales draws upon Welsh history and culture, side by side with international dimensions.</p>
<p>How can non-Welsh speaking parents be reassured that will not be disadvantaged from helping their children with homework, otherwise designed to reinforce school -</p>	<p>Parents/Guardians should not be concerned if they cannot speak Welsh with their children. They do not need to be able to speak Welsh in order to send their children to Welsh-medium immersion</p>

<p>based learning at home risking individuals falling behind.</p> <p>Support for families with Welsh language</p>	<p>education/schools. Parents/Guardians can help their children speak and use the language. Schools will still be their first point of contact about their children's continuous learning.</p> <p>The school should be able to support or advise parents/guardians on the best way to support children to maintain their Welsh language skills. If parents/guardians can encourage their children to use the Welsh language when speaking to friends, siblings or other family members that speak Welsh, that will help them maintain their skills. Parents/Guardians can also help their children by encouraging them to go to Welsh-medium activities and watch Welsh television programmes, listen to Welsh music, download Welsh apps, and older children can use social media such as Facebook and Twitter in the Welsh language. The important thing is that the children have contact with the language as often as possible. There is a range of information leaflets, videos and other resources to help pupils and parents. Parents/guardians can get more information and links to organisations that provide activities for children and young people in the Welsh language on Hwb (Welsh Government) and on Ceredigion Council's website. Also, in Ceredigion there is a dedicated and specialist team of staff supporting school leaders, teachers and teaching assistants in their work in delivering first-class resources in both languages.</p>
<p>Sad it seems like a done deal with the consultation not considering any comments as objections to the proposal.</p>	<p>According to the School Reorganisation Code, formal objections can be made during the statutory notice period subject to the Cabinet decision regarding the consultation.</p>
<p>New nursery provision would have a detrimental impact on the community run nursery provision on the school site and affect jobs and the wider community. If provide wrap around care, what would the council do to support this valuable</p>	<p>The nursery class within the school will not provide wrap around care after the early education hours are delivered, and therefore not have an impact on the current childcare provision.</p>

<p>community resource which feeds Comins Coch School?</p> <p>Early education is not currently provided at Mes Bach but the setting is responding positively to the inspection report recommendations. Concerns regarding the permanent removal of the potential to provide early education provides ongoing challenges to the setting financially. Transition between school setting puts additional demands on setting staffing levels.</p>	<p>Education provision for 3-year-old's is not provided by the current nursery provision setting. However, funding for wrap around care remains to be funded by the Welsh Government Childcare Offer.</p> <p>The school setting will receive funding for an additional staff member (0.5 teacher) who will be able to assist with the physical transfer of pupils to the childcare setting who require wrap around care.</p>
<p>Funding sources for new staff.</p>	<p>Additional funding for a 0.5 member of staff will be allocated to the school to support this proposal.</p>
<p>Encourage decision makers to ensure that alongside the WESP, the CSA and principles of ECPLC and the sustainability of childcare in Ceredigion all factored into any decision with equity.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Consultation shared with stakeholders and representatives are member of the Forum which monitors progress of the WESP Action Plan.</p>
<p>Introduction of 3-year-old's to be educated at the school, query:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff qualifications and where will staff be sourced from • What will be the curriculum? • What will be the framework? • Accommodation and adequate toilet facilities 	<p>All teaching staff must hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and registered with the Educational Workforce Council. The school will follow CCC safe recruitment processes for any appointments. The Curriculum for Wales has a separate curriculum for pre-school children. 'A curriculum for funded non-maintained nursery settings' which prepares them for the seamless progression for the Curriculum for Wales. Adequate space and toilet facilities were provided for the school within the recent extension.</p>
<p>Should this proposal come at the cost of an already established setting, or should more consideration be given to developing the existing settings and supplementing their resources? As a result, the council would also fulfil its purpose in supporting the use and development of the Welsh language within an essential community resource.</p>	<p>Comment noted. The LA continues to support the care element within the setting.</p>

Estyn Response.

Comment Received	County Response
Further clarification on the impact of the plan in areas such as teaching, pupil standards, leadership and management	The impact on the areas identified will be monitored as part of the school's self-evaluation and quality assurance processes. Further development of the school's Welsh language provision and standards has been identified as a priority within the school's development plan.
Staff training	Positive collaboration and a shared understanding of WESP priorities with the Welsh Sabbatical Scheme has led to the availability of more places on suitable / required courses. The use of WG funding grant trochi has also been utilised effectively to develop support staff's Welsh language skills.
The council does not identify whether there are non-maintained settings in the local area and whether these settings could be affected by this proposal.	An addendum was added to the consultation which addressed this point and the consultation period extended by two weeks.
The report specifies the number of nurse-y places available at one of the two schools that could be affected by this proposal, but not the other.	There is no nursery provision at the second school identified.
The proposal does not specify how many nursery places will be provided at Comins Coch school, whether there is space for these pupils and how this could affect the school as a whole.	PLASC 2023 states that there were 144 pupils on roll, with the school's capacity from reception to year 6 being 202. Therefore, there is sufficient capacity for potential nursery pupils. The school would receive extra core funding of 0.5 teacher within designated budget as well as WG funding per part time pupil.
How will potential extra support for pupils with ALN be provided when Welsh becomes an equal language of provision.	<p>The county has committed to ensure that this will not be a problem through its ALN development plan.</p> <p>Person Centred Planning is in place and we will continue to plan to meet the needs of individual pupils. Implementing ALN from 0 to 25 years old ensures early recognition, pre-school age. This gives an opportunity to plan provision and appropriate intervention before children start school.</p>

	<p>Suitable professional development and upskilling of staff will take place before pupils start school.</p> <p>All ALN support materials are available bilingually (Teachers Centre, training, intervention programmes, handbook, templates and communication resources). Therefore, all support materials are available bilingually.</p> <p>ALTE Level 3 or above is a requirement for all new appointments. When this is not possible a commitment to learn Welsh within the First two years of appointment is required.</p> <p>The County will provide Welsh language support and training for each member of staff following their appointment according to individual Needs.</p>
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School Council Comins Coch (10)

1. All understand the proposal. No questions
2. 9/10 agree it's important (the other pupil did not contribute to the discussion),
3. Weekly Welsh lessons, speaking Welsh around the school - Welsh stickers in Foundation Phase for using the language, Welsh assemblies by Criw Cymraeg, specific days e.g. Shwmae Sumae, Dydd Miwsig Cymru (Welsh Language Music Day), Dydd Gŵyl Dewi (St David's Day), Santes Dwynwen
4. Half would like to stay in Ceredigion , Important to learn Welsh, eg in business and in health care - many people prefer to speak own language or in their first language, Start conversation in Welsh - makes a difference.
5. Homework in Welsh - how can parents be supported - lessons for parents and lots of support for parents e.g resources shared by school to support parents to help children.

Nearly all happy with the proposal and agree learning Welsh at a younger age opens up more opportunities - more choices when moving onto secondary ages and beyond

Appendix B

Estyn's response to the proposal

Estyn's response on the proposal to amend language medium of the Foundation Learning and admit 3-year-old pupils on a part time basis at Ysgol Comins Coch

This report has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales. Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Summary/Conclusion

Estyn recognises the positive moves the local authority is proposing to develop the Welsh language in schools in the area. However, we do not have sufficient information to comment on the impact of the plan without further clarification in areas, such as the impact of the proposal on teaching, pupils' standards, leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The local authority has presented a suitable rationale for the consultation, outlining the reasons for the proposal to amend the language medium of foundation learning and to admit 3-year-olds to Comins Coch primary school on a part-time basis. They have also presented an appropriate rationale that is in line with the Welsh language in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

The proposer has provided a suitably detailed description of the proposal and a projected timetable for implementation. The timetable allows the staff at Comins Coch Primary School to systematically build on learners' acquisition of the Welsh language over a period of four years.

The proposer has outlined appropriately a range of advantages and disadvantages of this proposal. The main advantage of this proposal is to ensure greater linguistic equity and consistency across the County. It also meets the aspirations of the Curriculum for Wales to produce pupils that are confident in both Welsh and English thereby creating bilingual citizens. However, the council does not identify whether there are non-maintained settings in the local and whether these settings could be affected by this proposal.

The local authority has paid some attention to how this proposal will affect the current situation. Many children currently attend 'Mes Bach', a playgroup provision on the school premises provided by Early Years Wales. These children usually transfer naturally to Comins Coch Primary School. The proponent has not given good consideration to the potential impacts on local providers, such as Mes Bach.

The proposer has outlined risks around the implications of training members of staff to a standard that will enable them to support learners to develop their Welsh skills. They have identified that the skill set of many staff who are currently able to teach through the medium of Welsh will be fully utilised. They have also expressed concern that the Welsh language sabbatical scheme may not meet the demand. However, the proposer has not presented suitable mitigation procedures against this potential risks.

The local authority has acknowledged that these changes may be more challenging for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). It identifies that it will try to ensure that every practical step will be taken to ensure as little disruption as possible. However, it does not address how the council are going to meet the extra support that pupils with ALN could potentially require when Welsh becomes an equal language of provision.

The council identifies fairly that there will be no change to current travel arrangements as a consequence to this proposal.

The proposer has considered how admitting three-year-olds part-time will affect other schools in the area. The report states that there are 27 nursery places at Rhydypennau Primary School and that this data is not available for Penrhyn-coch Primary School. However, the proposal does not specify how many nursery places will be provided at Comins Coch Primary School, whether there is space for these pupils and how this could affect the school as a whole.

The local authority has undertaken impact assessment on the Welsh language and considers that this proposal will have a positive impact on pupils up to the age of seven. They have completed a Community Impact Assessment (CIA) prior to the consultation.

The council has considered suitably the financial implications of this proposal. The local authority will provide 0.5 FTE nursery teacher funding for the school. However, there is no commitment to provide financial support for the school to release staff for sabbatical schemes and specific training.

Educational aspect of the proposal

The local authority has considered in part the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards and provision. They have included statements on standards in the Welsh language from Estyn's recent inspection in June 2023. This section is detailed and outlines current standards of attainment in the Welsh language, however it makes little reference to the potential impact of the proposal on future standards.

The proposer has considered the likely impact of the proposal on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum at foundation learning. It has noted that this proposal is not anticipated to have a negative impact on their ability to deliver the curriculum in an appropriate, differentiated, broad and varied way. However, it does not specify whether the school has sufficient outdoor space and provision to suitably cater for the needs of 3-year-old children.

The local authority has considered clearly the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It has outlined collaboration activities between partners and stakeholders and underlined the importance of involving people who have an interest in achieving the well-being goals.

Appendix C

Statutory Notice

Hysbysiad Statudol i wneud newid a reoleiddir i ysgol gymunedol a gynhelir, ysgol sefydledig, ysgol wirfoddol neu ysgol feithrin

Gan

**Gyngor Sir Ceredigion,
Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, Canolfan
Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23
3UE**

Hysbysir drwy hyn yn unol ag adran 42 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013 a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion fod Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, ar ôl ymgynghori â'r cyfryw bersonau ag sy'n ofynnol, yn cynnig newid **Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch, Comins Coch, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BQ** fel y bydd cyfrwng y cyfarwyddid yn y Dysgu Sylfaen yn Gymraeg a derbyn disgyblion 3 oed yn rhan amser. Cynhelir yr ysgol gan Gyngor Sir Ceredigion.

Cynhaliodd Cyngor Sir Ceredigion gyfnod ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn. Mae adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad sy'n cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan ymgynghoreion, ymatebion y cynigydd ac ymateb llawn Estyn ar gael ar wefan Cyngor Sir Ceredigion (www.ceredigion.gov.uk).

Cynigir gweithredu'r cynnig ar **1 Medi 2024**.

Bydd 28 o leoedd meithrin o fis Medi 2024. Byddai cynnig mynediad rhan

Statutory Notice to make a regulated alteration to a maintained community, foundation, voluntary or nursery school

By

**Ceredigion County Council,
Schools Service, Canolfan
Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23
3UE**

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Ceredigion County Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to alter **Comins Coch Primary School, Comins Coch, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BQ** so that the language medium in the foundation learning is Welsh and to admit 3-year old pupils on a part time basis. The school is currently maintained by Ceredigion County Council.

Ceredigion County Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and Estyn's full response is available on Ceredigion County Council website (www.Ceredigion.gov.uk).

It is proposed to implement the proposal on **1 September 2024**

There will be 28 nursery places from September 2024. Offering access to

amser i addysg yn 3 oed yn ehangu cyfleoedd caffael iaith disgyblion ac yn cyflwyno ecwiti darpariaeth mwy cyson o fewn yr ysgolion hynny sydd wedi eu pennu yn y categori Trosiannol 2*.

Prif nod y cynnig yw adeiladu ar y dilyniant ieithyddol cyfredol. Mae'r datblygiad yn golygu, erbyn Medi 2024, y byddai polisi addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ar waith ar draws y Dysgu Sylfaen yn Ysgol Comins Coch.

Dyma'r amserlen weithredu:

Start date	School Year
Medi 2024	Derbyn disgyblion Meithrin rhan amser am y tro cyntaf
Medi 2025	Derbyn
Medi 2026	Blwyddyn 1
Medi 2027	Blwyddyn 2

Erbyn Medi 2028, byddai'r disgyblion Blwyddyn 3 yr ysgol â sail gadarn yn arbennig ar lafar a byddant yn medru adeiladu ar y sgiliau hynny tra hefyd yn datblygu eu sgiliau a'u haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Saesneg.

Gall unrhyw un wrthwynebu'r cynigion cyn pen cyfnod o 28 diwrnod o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynigion hyn, hynny yw erbyn **29 Mawrth 2024**.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Swyddog Arweiniol Corfforaethol ar gyfer Ysgolion, Cyngor Sir Ceredigion, Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, Canolfan

education at 3 years of age on a part-time basis expands pupils' language attainment opportunities and provides a more equal and consistent provision within schools that have been placed in the T2 category*.

The main aim of the proposal is to build on the current linguistic progression. The development means that, by September 2024, there would be a Welsh medium education policy in place across the Foundation Learning at Comins Coch School.

The implementation timetable will be as follows:

Start date	School Year
Sept 2024	Admitting part time Nursery pupils for the first time
Sept 2025	Reception
Sept 2026	Year 1
Sept 2027	Year 2

By September 2028, the school's Year 3 pupils will have a sound foundation, especially orally, and will be able to build on those skills whilst also developing their skills and education through the medium of English.

Within a period of one 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published, that is to say by **29 March 2024** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to: Corporate Lead Officer for Schools, Ceredigion County Council, Schools Service, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa

Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion, SY23 3UE neu ebostio:
cysgacominscoch@ceredigion.llyw.cymru

Llofnodwyd:

Clive Williams
Swyddog Arweiniol Corfforaethol ar
gyfer Ysgolion
Ar ran Cyngor Sir Ceredigion
Dyddiad: 1 Mawrth 2024

*<https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/canllawiau-ar-gategoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg.pdf>

Padarn, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23
3UE or email:
wespcominscoch@ceredigion.gov.uk

Signed:

Clive Williams
Corporate Lead Officer for Schools
For Ceredigion County Council
Date: 1 March 2024

*<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-12/guidance-on-school-categories-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

Appendix D

Responses received during the consultation period

(5)

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 17 November 2023 15:06
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: Ymgynghoriad ar ad-drefnu addysg yn Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch

Dydych chi ddim yn cael negeseuon e-bost g[Redacted] [Dysgu pam bod hyn yn bwysig](#)

Annwyl Syr / Madam

Carwn i nodi fy mod i'n cefnogi'r cynlluniau i gynnig addysg Gymraeg i ddisgyblion 3-7 oed ac addysg feithrin yn Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch. Mae'n ddatblygiad pwysig a fydd yn cefnogi polisi Llywodraeth Cymru o gynyddu nifer y siaradwyr Cymraeg i filiwn erbyn 2050. Drwy gydweithio â'r Coleg Cymraeg, mae Prifysgol Aberystwyth wedi ehangu ei darpariaeth Gymraeg yn helaeth dros y 10 mlynedd diwethaf. Mae'r ffigurau cyflogadwyedd yn dangos bod myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg ac wedi astudio yn Gymraeg yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn gwaith lefel raddedig neu astudiaethau ôl-raddedig 6 mis ar ôl graddio na myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg ond heb astudio drwy'r Gymraeg a myfyrwyr sydd ddim yn medru'r Gymraeg. Fodd bynnag, nid ydym ni wedi gweld datblygiadau tebyg mewn addysg Gymraeg yn y sector addysg orfodol yn lleol ac nid oes modd i ganran sylweddol o fyfyrwyr sy'n dod inni o ysgolion Ceredigion fanteisio ar y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg. Mae'r datblygiad hwn yn gam yn y cyfeiriad iawn wrth sicrhau bod bob person ifanc yng Ngheredigion yn gallu manteisio ar addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r ysgol feithrin i'r brifysgol a thu hwnt.


Cofion gorau,


[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

 Ysgrifennwch ataf yn
Gymraeg neu Saesneg

 Please write to me in
Welsh or English

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 16 November 2023 11:25
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: Ymateb i'r Ymgynghoriad

You don't often get email from [Redacted]

Annwyl Gyfeillion,
Diolch am y cyfle i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad. Carwn ddatgan fy mod yn aelod o Fforwm CSCA Ceredigion ac yn mynychu'r Fforwm fel cynrychiolydd o Brifysgol Aberystwyth. Nid yw'r ymateb hwn yn ddatganiad ar ran y Brifysgol.

Rwy'n gefnogol dros ben i'r cynnig.

Mae dogfennau'r ymgynghoriad wedi eu gosod allan yn glir ac maent yn delio'n dda gyda materion ymarferol sydd ynghlwm â newid o'r fath.

Mae'r achos o safbwynt cefnogi datblygiad ieithyddol ac addysgiadol disgyblion y dyfodol yn un hollol gadarn. Cadarn iawn hefyd yw'r rhesymeg o ran y cynnig fel rhan o amcanion CSCA Ceredigion sydd ei hun yn cefnogi nodau Llwyodaeth Cymru wrth gyflwyno'r Cwricwlwm newydd a Strategaeth Cymraeg 2050.

Yn gywir,
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Y Brifysgol orau yn y DU am Ansawdd ei Dysgu a Phrofiad Myfyrwyr
Best University in the UK for Teaching Quality and Student Experience
(The Times and Sunday Times, Good University Guide 2021)
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

0

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 November 2023 17:00
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ychydig o Sylwadau Ynglyn At Ysgolion a'r Ddatblygiad Addysg Yng Ngheredigion

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Annwy [REDACTED]

Rydw i'n gobeithio mae'r ebost hon yn ffindio chi'n iawn. Diolch yn fawr am i gyd o'r gwaith yr ydych yn ei wneud yng Ngheredigion a gyda'r Cyngor Sir.

Yn gobeithiol, byddwch chi'n hapus i ddarllen ychydig o fy syniadau a sylwaday ynglyn at y sistem addysg yng Ngheredigion. Anfonais i mewn sylwadau yn ystod cyfnod ymgynghoriad y Cynllun Strategol Cymraeg Mewn Addysg rhyw dwy flynedd nol, ac dwi'n falch i gweld bod y Cyngor wedi neud mwy ne lai popeth nes i awgrymu!

Os mae'n addas, dwi'n moyn cynnig awgrymiadau hyd yn oed mwy eithriadol ar gyfer y ddyfodol - efallai mae nhw'n cael ei ystyried yn barod gan y Cyngor Sir.

Gyda'r amser yn dod ble mae pob plentyn yng Ngheredigion yn graddio o ysgol gynradd gyfrwng Cymraeg gyda Cymraeg rhygl, mae'n diddorol i meddwl am beth byddai'n digwydd ynglyn at addysg Saesneg yn sir.

Fel dwi'n deall, bydd na dim ond un ysgol sy'n addysgu drwy'r gyfrwng y Saesneg yn y sir, sef Ysgol Penglais. Er mwyn normaleiddio'r Cymraeg fel iaith y gymuned, dwi'n moyn awgrymu bod na ffrwd Saesneg yn cael ei sefydlu ynddo fe, a hefyd bod y ffrwd Saesneg yn dechrau yn blwyddyn 9, er mwyn plant sy'n symud i'r sir yn hwyr. Ar gyfer plant sy'n symud i Ceredigion ym mlwyddyn 7 neu 8, fasai'n bosib ddarparu Addysg Drochi Ar Gyfer Hwyrddyfodiaid, fel sy'n digwydd gyda'r Saesneg er mwyn hwyrddyfodiaid i'r sistem addysg y D.U.

Gall y sir gynnig addysg gyfrwng Saesneg er mwyn plant sy'n symud i Ceredigion am 13 oed neu'n hynach, a fyddai'n ffindio'n anodd addasu mor hwyr a ddysgu'r iaith.

Beth ydych chi'n meddwl am y syniad?

Diolch yn fawr iawn a chofion

3

17. FFURFLEN YMATEB – YSGOL GYNRADD COMINS COCH

Mae'r ffurflen ymateb ganlynol yn caniatáu i randdeiliaid roi sylwadau ar y prif gynnig h.y. diwygio'r Gymraeg yn y Dysgu Sylfaen ynghyd â chaniatau derbyn oedran meithrin rhan amser i'r ysgol.

SYLWADAU

Cyhoeddi yn gryf bod angen y datblygiadau iechydol a nodwyd er mlyn cynyddu medrau dwyieithog y dysgiblon a sicrhau cyfleoedd ehangach iddynt yn y dyfodol. Mae'n gysyllt i gynnwys mwy o ddems iddynt a chyfrannu at fywyd mewn Gymraeg am-ieithog.

Llofnod:	
Printiwch eich Enw:	
E-bost:	
Cyfeiriad:	
Dyddiad:	30/10/2023

Nodwch os hoffech chi gael gwybod pan fydd yr adroddiad ymgynghori'n cael ei gyhoeddi:

Sylwer, oni bai eich bod yn nodi i'r gwrthwyneb, bydd eich sylwadau ar gael i'r cyhoedd fel rhan o gofnodion ffurfiol yr ymgynghoriad.

Dychweler erbyn **Hydref 30 2023** fan bellaf at:

Ymgynghoriad CSGA, Gwasanaeth Ysgolion, 2^{il} Lawr, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

Neu e-bostiwrch: : csgacominscoch@ceredigion.llyw.cymru neu wespcominscoch@ceredigion.gov.uk

78

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 November 2023 20:55
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Cc: cysgacominscoch@ceredigion.llyw.cymru
Subject: MESBACH-1123

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you today regarding "the proposal to amend the language in the Foundation Learning as well as changing the admission age to include 3 year old children on a part time basis" and the consultation that is taking place in regard to the same (Ysgol Comins Coch School).

As a parent, I question the decision to introduce 3 year olds to a school setting. My initial queries are:

- What qualifications will staff be required to hold?
- Where will staff be sourced from?
- What will be the curriculum?
- What will be the framework?
- Where will the children be accommodated? Are new classrooms and appropriate toileting facilities to be built at Comins Coch School for the 3 year olds?

There are strict rules governing teachers and their interactions with children in schools. At 3 years old, many children will not have reached the developmental milestones necessary to attend a school setting without additional help. Many may still nap, need help toileting etc.

- Will staff be able to assist in these areas as one would expect in a nursery setting?
- Will the school employ qualified carers to provide care while the children are in school?

In the consultation document, there is mention of the shortage of childcare provisions within the Ceredigion area. Has the council considered the impact this will have on Mes Bach nursery, the children, and their parents/guardians? Mes Bach is a community run nursery that provides childcare to the immediate and surrounding communities. Mes Bach comes as a lifeline to many families who, due to economic circumstances, would be unable to afford childcare elsewhere.

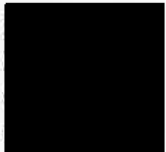
There is also the issue of oversubscription. As many local parents will know, most of the nurseries within the area are over subscribed and therefore lack placements essential for working families. If Mes Bach is to provide wrap around care, what will the council do to support this valuable community resource, which, also acts as a feeder to Comins Coch School itself?

Whilst I understand the council is required to deliver policy transformation committing to The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, should this come at the cost of an already established setting, along with the additional expense of extra staffing, the extra consideration needed for wrap around care and logistical evaluations, or, should more consideration be given to developing the existing settings, and supplementing their resources?

Surely the latter would be more efficient, cost effective and less disruptive to all concerned? No staff would need to ferry children between settings; children would be in a purpose built environment with correctly assessed, qualified and known staff and all attendees of the nursery would benefit from such an investment. The council would also fulfil its purpose in supporting the use and development of the Welsh language within an essential community resource.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



24/11/2023

17. FEEDBACK FORM – COMINS COCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The following feedback form allows stakeholders to comment on the proposal i.e amend language medium of the Foundation Learning and to admit 3-year-old pupils on a part-time basis.

COMMENT:
 I absolutely agree with plans to extend current provision to three year olds through a part-time nursery at Ysgol Comins Coch, as I understand the need to increase pupil numbers to sustain the continued health of the school. As one of the strongest schools in the Aberystwyth area based on the most recent Estyn report, the school is a leader in quality primary-level education and should continue to serve the local community for parents to choose to send their children to a school of it's calibre.

I have severe reservations to the proposals to enforce Welsh-medium only from Foundation to year 2. There are several Welsh medium schools in the Aberystwyth area that parents may choose if they so wish already. Enforcing all schools to become Welsh-medium alone removes parental choice which is an undemocratic move. Furthermore this goes against government and Bilingual Futures policy to promote bilingualism and instead forces monolingualism. My fear is this will alienate many parents, and indeed, perturb well qualified families moving into the area to work at the county's biggest employers, the NHS and Aberystwyth University, resulting in a brain drain of expertise and professional employment. Parents must be reassured that if they are non-Welsh speakers, they will not be disadvantaged from helping their children with homework (reading for example) otherwise designed to reinforce school-based learning at home risking individuals falling behind. Having recently come through the COVID-19 pandemic when pupils were required to be educated at home, how can non-Welsh speakers support their children in Welsh language tasks, in addition to balancing the often stressful requirements of their own employers for working from home and/or going to work as key workers? If children are educated wholly in the Welsh language, have impact assessments been made for the effects on learning when transitioning to English secondary education, and later university? I am a Welsh learning myself and I am delighted my child is currently learning Welsh at a bilingual school, and the skills that brings. As the document states, Ysgol Comins Coch Welsh language achievement for all pupils is already very good. Why the need to change? Monolingual Welsh medium teaching is a step too far.

Signature:	[Redacted]
Print your Name:	[Redacted]
E-mail:	[Redacted]
Address:	[Redacted]
Date:	26.9.23

Please indicate if you would like to be notified when the consultation report is published:

Please note, unless you state otherwise, that your comments will be available to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Return by 30 October 2023 at the latest to:

WESP Consultation, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

Or e-mail: cysgacominscoch@ceredigion.llyw.cymru or wespcominscoch@ceredigion.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 October 2023 09:28
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: Consultation on language change at Comins Coch

(12)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [in why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern.

I am a parent of three children who went through Comins Coch school. One is still there, the others are at Penglais School (English Medium), along with every single one of their cohort.

The children who attended Comins Coch have a very good level of Welsh language relative to those who attended other English Medium schools in the area. The provision of Welsh at the school is very strong.

However, I am strongly opposed to the shift to Welsh medium. The school has a very low number of children who speak Welsh at home, and a large number of the children of medical professionals and university employees, some of whom come to the area for a limited duration, all of whom are essential for the local economy and provision of social goods. These people will be seriously deterred from moving into the area by the necessity to educate their children through the medium of Welsh and it is essential that choice remains an element of both primary and secondary education in the area. We need more connection with the wider world, not less.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

②

WESP Consultation
Ceredigion County Council
Canolfan Rheidol
Rhodfa Padarn
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UE

24th October 2023

Re: School reorganisation statutory consultation document

Dear Sir/ Madam

My name [REDACTED] and I am a researcher [REDACTED]. Both my children attended Comins Coch Primary School, [REDACTED] is still there in Year [REDACTED].

Although I fully support the drive to promote the Welsh language in schools and in the wider community and understand that the majority of schools will be Welsh-medium schools, the loss of the choice to have an English-medium education in Ceredigion will be extremely detrimental to the economy and societal fabric of the region.

The University (where I am a researcher) and the Hywel Dda NHS trust are already struggling to attract talent to their organisations. The absence of an English medium school will put many families off from coming to Aberystwyth. We, and a lot of our colleagues, would not have come here if schools like Comins Coch and Plascrug would not be available to our children. Many other countries (a lot of which are providing English education alongside the countries' language) will become more attractive and Ceredigion will lose some of its most talented people.

Aberystwyth has a tradition of welcoming people from many different ways of life and after 15 years living here, we still feel so welcome in this diverse and accepting community. I do strongly feel that removing the choice to an English-medium education will impoverish the area and send a closed-door message rather than an open-arms one.

I hope you can reconsider your decision and maintain at least one English-medium school in Aberystwyth.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Signature

Print

Email

Address

Date

[REDACTED]

24th October 2023

34

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 25 October 2023 11:20
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: FEEDBACK FORM – COMINS COCH

You don't often get emails from [Redacted] [why this is important](#)

Dear WESP Consultation,

I would like to comment on the proposal to amend the language medium of the foundation learning at Comins Coch primary school.

Whilst I understand the overall plan to stimulate Welsh medium education, it is really important to maintain provision of English medium schools in the Aberystwyth area. Many parents working in the area, including those working at Aberystwyth University and Bronglais hospital, came to this area from England or are foreign nationals. I believe that for the local community and economy to thrive, it is essential that there is at least an option for parents to send their kids to an English-medium primary school in the local area. Without such provision, it will be difficult to recruit people from abroad (or keep them) and there is a danger for developing an inward-looking mentality. I'm a foreign national, living in Aberystwyth for 15 years, and I've always loved the diversity and inclusion of the area. Although the proposed changes won't directly affect our kids anymore, we would probably (and regrettably) move elsewhere if it would have affected them.

[Redacted Signature]

I would like to be notified when the consultation report is published

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 October 2023 13:29
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: Comins Coch Consultation response

You don't often get email from [Redacted] [why this is important](#)

Re: Consultation response for Comins Coch

With respect to the proposal for Comins Coch, we understand that early education has not been provided by this Mes Bach since summer 2022. We are pleased to note the successes of the setting in responding positively to the inspection reports that they have received. This response, in part, was required due to the pressures that the whole sector, and not just Mes Bach, have faced since the pandemic. Whilst at this point we cannot state that early education should be delivered through Mes Bach, we are concerned that the permanent removal of the potential to provide early education provides ongoing challenges to the setting financially. The indication that 'Staffing ratios will need to be met to ensure walking the children safely from the school back to playgroup for wraparound care including funded Childcare Offer places.' infers that this is an additional demand to be placed on the setting, alongside their reduced income potential. If so, this raises the question about whether this transition has been well-planned and organised in the best way for the children, and how the setting receiving lower income revenues, is meant to increase staff availability? We would encourage decision-makers to ensure that alongside the WESP, the CSA and principles of ECPLC, and the sustainability of childcare in Ceredigion are all factored into any decision with equity.

Finally, just for clarity, Mes Bach are members of Early Years Wales. As such, they have the full support of the organisation, and the access to all resources and support staff. Prior to 2020, this would have been by purchase of a membership. However, since 2020, no fee has been charged to the setting in support of the sustainability of a vulnerable sector during both Covid-19 and the 'cost of living' challenges that arose from 2023/24. The fee for 2023/24 has been covered by our internal reserves providing some sustainability support to all our members.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2023 12:55
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch
Subject: MESBACH-1123

Microsoft Word You don't often get emails from [REDACTED] [why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today regarding "the proposal to amend the language in the Foundation Learning as well as changing the admission age to include 3 year old children on a part time basis" and the consultation that is taking place in regard to the same (Ysgol Comins Coch School).

In the consultation document, there is mention of the shortage of childcare provisions within the Ceredigion area: I ask, has the council considered the impact this will have on Mes Bach nursery, the children, and their parents/guardians? Mes Bach is a community run nursery that provides childcare to the immediate and surrounding communities. Mes Bach comes as a lifeline to many families who, due to economic circumstances, would be unable to afford childcare elsewhere. There is also the issue of oversubscription. As many local parents will know, most of the nurseries within the area are over subscribed and therefore lack placements essential for working families. If Mes Bach is to provide wrap around care, what will the council do to support this valuable community resource, which, also acts as a feeder to Comins Coch School itself?

When moving to Aberystwyth last year, Mes Bach was the only nursery with spaces available. My son had a wonderful time there, and we were sad when the after school facilities were no longer available, which would have provided my son with the consistency of familiar setting and staff when moving to school. He now attends Ysgol Comins Coch, which we would not have done had he not been at Mes Bach.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

17. FEEDBACK FORM – COMINS COCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The following feedback form allows stakeholders to comment on the proposal i.e

As a healthcare manager I am concerned about the changes suggested here in this consultation. It is very challenging to attract healthcare professionals and their families to the UK, let alone rural areas like Aberystwyth, some of which English is not their first language. In fact, the BBC only reported this week that GMC have found 63% of doctors were trained abroad and even though a recruitment drive has started, this will take a few years to realise. In the last few years, we have found it difficult to recruit qualified staff to our vacancies in the medical sciences and secured staff from overseas. I am keen, therefore, to understand what support and adjustments can be made to ensure we can continue to attract these staff with respect to suitable schools with accessible language for their families. I agree that it is important to teach children Welsh in this bilingual country, but not at the expense of removing English from primary schools. I would also be interested to understand how funding and sourcing of suitable teachers is anticipated, being aware of recent redundancy due to funding at local schools.

I am however sad that this seems to be a 'done deal' with the consultation not considering any comments as 'objections' to the proposal.

Having nursery provision at the school would also require funding for appropriate classroom space, equipment and dedicated staffing. Again I am keen to understand source of funding for this especially where there is a suitable service next door to Comins Coch school already, Mes Bach. Any new school nurse service could have a detrimental impact on this nursery and affect jobs and the wider community. This doesn't seem to have been communicated or consulted.

To summarise, I am keen to understand:

- Funding sources for new teachers - especially after recent redundancies
- Funding sources for suitable space/equipment etc for nursery
- Support for families who have no Welsh language
- Impact assessment on professional recruitment to the area

Signature:

Print your

Name:

E-mail:

Address:

Date:



16.11.23.

Please indicate if you would like to be notified when the consultation report is published:

Please note, unless you state otherwise, that your comments will be available to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Return by 30 October 2023 at the latest to:

WESP Consultation, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE

Or e-mail: cysgacominscoch@ceredigion.llyw.cymru or
wespcominscoch@ceredigion.gov.uk



ar y

Cynnig i ddiwygio cyfrwng Iaith Dysgu Sylfaen y 5 ysgol a ganlyn; Ysgol Gynradd Cei Newydd, Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch, Ysgol Gynradd Plascrug, Ysgol Gynradd Llwyn yr Eos ac Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Padarn Sant a newid oed derbyn disgyblion i gynnwys disgyblion 3 oed rhan amser mewn 3 o'r ysgolion hynny, sef Ysgol Cei Newydd, Ysgol Comins Coch ac Ysgol Gatholig Padarn Sant.

15 Tachwedd 2023

1. Dymuna [redacted] polch am y cyfle i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad hwn gan Gyngor Cyngor Sir Ceredigion.

Y mae cyfundrefn gynllunio addysg Gymraeg trwy'r Cynlluniau Strategol y Gymraeg mewn addysg yn gorfod bod yn rhan graidd o gynllunio darpariaeth addysg pob Awdurdod Lleol. Ers Medi 2022, mae Cyngor Sir Ceredigion wedi bod yn gweithredu cynllun newydd a gytunwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru..

Cynyddu cyfleoedd i ddysgwyr fedru caffael y Gymraeg fel eu bod yn medru ei defnyddio'n rhwydd yw sail uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru i gyrraedd miliwn o siaradwyr ac y mae dogfen gynllunio addysg Gymraeg y Llywodraeth ei hun yn nodi

"Mae Cymraeg 2050 yn glir mai trochi cyfrwng Cymraeg - sef lle mae cyfrwng yr addysgu a'r dysgu yn cael ei gyflwyno'n gyfan gwbl neu'n bennaf drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg - yw'r model mwyaf dibynadwy ar gyfer creu siaradwyr Cymraeg gyda'r sgiliau a'r hyder i ddefnyddio'r iaith yn gyfforddus yn eu bywydau bob dydd."

(Tudalen3:

<https://www.llyw.cymru/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/canllawiau-gynlluniau-strategol-cymraeg-addysg.pdf>)

2. Sylweddolwn faint y gwaith a ddaw wrth aildrefnu ysgolion yn yr G21ain ac yn wir y mae Sir fel Ceredigion yn cynnig her ychwanegol gyda'i natur ddaearyddol faith a gwledig. Y mae [redacted] wedi ein calonogi gan awydd y Sir i drawsnewid addysg yn y blynyddoedd cynnar i gael ei gyflwyno trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Gyda gweithredu'r cynlluniau 10 mlynedd y mae cyfle gwirioneddol i wneud gwahaniaeth i hygyrchedd Addysg Gymraeg o fewn Sir Ceredigion i fwy o blant a da yw gweld bod y sir wedi cychwyn gweithredu yn

gynnar yn y cylch newydd er mwyn sicrhau gwireddu'r uchelgais hon cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

3. Yn hytrach nag ymateb i ymgynghoriad pob ysgol yn unigol, cyfeirir ein hymateb at bob ysgol sydd yn rhan o'r ymgynghoriad hwn, gan fod pob un wedi eu nodi fel ysgolion Categori Trosiannol 2, gyda bwriad i gyfrwng dysgu bob un symud y dysgu Sylfaen i'r Gymraeg yn raddol fesul blwyddyn.
4. Mae sicrhau profiad trochi ieithyddol gyflawn i ddisgyblion yn hanfodol wrth iddynt gaffael iaith sydd nid o reidrwydd yn iaith y cartref. Mae bod mewn amgylchedd lle mae'r Gymraeg yn brif gyfrwng yr addysgu a'r hamdden, yn cynyddu'r cyfleoedd hynny'n sylweddol i sicrhau profiad trochi llawn a dwy iaith o leiaf o oedran cynnar iawn. Mae'r cynnig hwn felly'n gam allweddol i sicrhau gwell cyfleoedd i fwy o blant y sir gaffael y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg o oed cynnar.
5. Yn yr ysgolion hynny lle cynigir ychwanegiad o ddsbarth meithrin, gallwn ond canmol y cam hwn. Gwyddwn o brofiad ar draws Cymru bod cychwyn ein plant yn gynnar yn yr ysgol yn rhoi'r sail ieithyddol orau iddynt ac y mae taith at ddwyieithrwydd, ac i nifer, amlieithrwydd, tipyn yn haws yn ifanc iawn. Y mae ychwanegu dosbarth meithrin hefyd yn cynorthwyo hyffwedd y dosbarth derbyn ac yn ei sgil yr ysgol gyfan, gan fod y dosbarth meithrin yn bwydo'r derbyn yn naturiol. Yn ieithyddol, dyma yw cryfder mwyaf cychwyn yn y dosbarth meithrin, mae'r dilyniant yn naturiol i'r plentyn ac yn wir o fantais i rieni/gofalwyr i ymgartrefu mewn cymuned ysgol yn gynharach. Tybed a oes angen ffactora cynorthwydd dysgu i'r gyllideb ar gyfer yr ysgolion hyn ond ffactora hefyd yr un aelod o staff cynorthwyol i fuddion y cynlluniau hefyd?
6. Mae gan y weithred o ymgynghori'r cyfrifoldeb i fesur yr effaith ar nifer o wahanol agweddau yn cynnwys y Gymraeg a hyn ar gychwyn y broses o ymgynghori. Rhaid i Awdurdod Lleol ddangos eu bod yn llwyr ymwybodol o'r effeithiau o weithredu cynllun a fydd yn cael effaith ar gynlluniau addysg Gymraeg ac yn wir ar y gymuned ehangach. Yr ydym yn gweld bod y sir wedi creu astudiaethau effaith gofalus a thrwyadl. Tybed a fyddai cyfeiriad wedi gallu bod at fewnfudwyr a'r gefnogaeth ieithyddol ar eu cyfer hwy yn rhan o'r asesu effaith hwn fel bod cynllun clir ar sut y gellid cefnogi pawb a ddaw i fyw i'r cymunedau hyn yn y strwythurau newydd.
7. Rhaid i ni bwysleisio bod newid wedi bod yn ysbryd y CSCAU ers y weithdrefn newydd. Nid system o ymateb i'r galw am addysg Gymraeg dylai fod mwyach ond creu'r galw a symbylu twf. Rhaid i hyn ddigwydd mewn modd rhagweithiol gyda chynllunio bwriadus yn amlwg. Yn achos Ceredigion, rydych yn gwneud gosodiad cadarn am gyfrwng iaith addysg y sir yn yr ysgolion hyn ac ar y daith i wireddu'ch dyhead i bob plentyn gael y cyfle gorau i gaffael dwy iaith o leiaf. Mae hyn i'w ganmol yn fawr.
8. Byddai wedi bod o fudd i weld pa ddarpariaethau gofal plant neu gylchoedd meithrin a'u cyfrwng sydd yn nalgylch pob ysgol. Gwyddwn fod darpariaeth gofal cyn ysgol a'r gallu i deuluoedd dderbyn gofal cofleidiol yn hanfodol i ddewis rhieni. Mae hygyrchedd darpariaeth Gymraeg di-dor, a'r llwybr yr un mor glir i addysg Gymraeg yn hanfodol.

9. Byddai wedi bod yn dda hefyd i weld y cyfleoedd sydd ar gael i blant drosglwyddo i ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg petai rhieni'n dymuno hynny. Pa ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael ar gyfer trochwyr hwyr neu fewnfudwyr?
10. Pa gefnogaeth a roddir i ddisgyblion Cymraeg fel iaith ychwanegol (WAL) sydd yn dod i'r gymuned heb y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg?
11. Nodir yn adran 2.1 Canllawiau ar gategoreiddio ysgolion yn ôl y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth Cymru:

Yr egwyddor o beidio a symud yn ôl

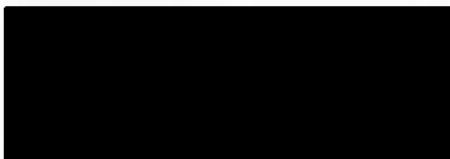
Un o'r egwyddorion craidd wrth gyflwyno'r trefniadau newydd yw na ddylai ysgolion gynnig llai o ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y dyfodol nag a wnaed yn y gorffennol. Rydym am sicrhau bod dysgwyr yn cael cymaint o gyfleoedd â phosibl i ddefnyddio eu Cymraeg mewn cymaint o gyd-destunau gwahanol â phosibl yn ystod y diwrnod ysgol. Bydd hyn yn golygu ein bod yn rhoi'r cyfle gorau i'n dysgwyr ddod yn siaradwyr Cymraeg hyderus, sy'n gallu defnyddio'r iaith ym mhob agwedd ar fywyd.

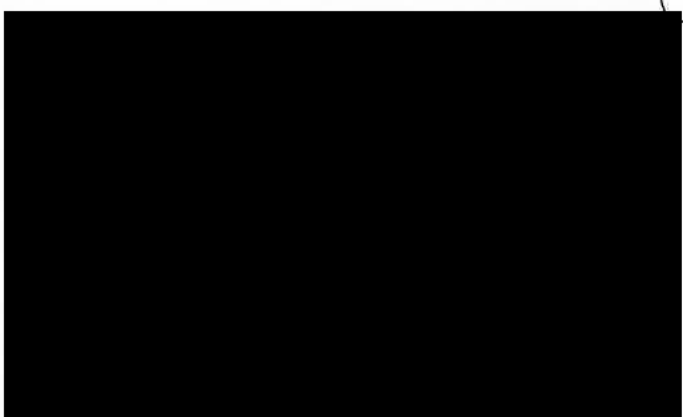
Pa gefnogaeth fydd ar gael i ysgolion i sicrhau hyn, i gynnal hyn ac yn fwy na hynny i gefnogi symud pellach ar hyn y continwwm i ysgolion petai corff llyworaethol yn dymuno hyn i'r ysgol? Wrth sefydlu sail ieithyddol gadarn i ysgol, y mae'r momentwm i ddysgu mwy yn debygol o ddatblygu'n naturiol. Pa gymorth ffurfiol fydd ar gael i'r ysgolion hyn fwrw ati felly?

Cytunwn felly gyda'r cynnig i'r newid hwn ym mhob un o'r ysgolion a ymgynghorir arnynt gan edrych ymlaen at sicrhau bod y daith drosiannol yn un sydd yn y pendraw yn sicrhau deilliannau ieithyddol cwbl ddwyieithog o leiaf i blant yr ysgolion hyn ac yn wir i holl blant Ceredigion yn y pendraw.

Byddwn yn barod i drafod ein hymateb gyda swyddogion a chynghorwyr Cyngor Sir Ceredigion ar unrhyw amser cyfleus fel arfer.

Yn ddiffuant,





Ymateb [redacted] gynghoriad ar ddiwygio cyfrwng iaith y dysgu sylfaen a derbyn yn Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch

Mae [redacted] yn fudiad sy'n ymgyrchu'n ddi-drais dros y Gymraeg a holl gymunedau Cymru.

Mae [redacted] yn croesawu'r cynnig i newid cyfrwng iaith lefel 1 i'r Gymraeg. Mae hyn yn bwysig iawn am y rhesymau canlynol:

- Addysg Gymraeg yw'r unig ffordd o greu siaradwyr Cymraeg hyderus. Ar hyn o bryd mae plant yn Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch yn colli cyfleoedd o beidio derbyn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mater o degwch yw hyn.
- Yn ogystal, yn ôl polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru mae angen newid darpariaeth addysg i fod yn gyfrwng Cymraeg fel rhan o gyfraniad y sir at sicrhau miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.
- Er bod Ceredigion ymhlith y siroedd â'r ganran uchaf o siaradwyr Cymraeg mae'r tri Chyfrifiad diwethaf wedi dangos cwmp yn niferoedd a chanran siaradwyr y sir.
- Gan mai 8% o ddisgyblion Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch sy'n siarad Cymraeg gartref, yr ysgol fydd unig gyswllt nifer o blant yr ardal a'u rhieni â'r Gymraeg. Mae addysg Gymraeg yn hanfodol yn yr ardal er mwyn creu siaradwyr Cymraeg felly.
- Byddai newid iaith y ddarpariaeth hyd at flwyddyn 2 yn gam cychwynnol pwysig tuag at hyn gyrraedd polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru a rhoi'r Gymraeg i holl blant y sir.
- Er hynny, mae'n bwysig nodi mai cam cychwynnol ddylai hyn fod a'n bod yn disgwyl symud gweddill yr ysgol ar hyd y continwrm hefyd.
- Addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yw'r unig ffordd o sicrhau bod ein bod ifanc yn gadael yr ysgol yn siarad y Gymraeg yn hyderus. Bydd addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg hyd at flwyddyn 2 yn sail dda i adeiladu arno felly, ond er mwyn datblygu eu sgiliau Cymraeg mae angen i blant barhau i dderbyn addysg Gymraeg.
- Mae angen newid cyfrwng addysg yr holl ysgol er mwyn galluogi disgyblion i barhau ag addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- Mae Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch yn un o dair ysgol Saesneg sy'n bwydo dwy ysgol uwchradd. Mae ardal Aberystwyth yn eithriad o fewn Ceredigion am fod cymaint o ddisgyblion yn cael eu hamddifadu o addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- Nid yn unig y byddai newid iaith Ysgol Gynradd Comins Coch ac ysgolion cynradd Saesneg eraill yn eu cyfanrwydd yn rhoi'r Gymraeg i ragor o blant y sir, byddai hefyd o fudd i'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn nes ymlaen yn y system addysg. Mae

cynnal dwy ysgol uwchradd yn yr un dref mewn sir sy'n lleihau mewn poblogaeth yn anghynnaladwy.

- Fel ag y mae, mae nifer y disgyblion yn creu her ariannol a gweithredol i Ysgol Penweddig ac yn golygu bod llai o ystod o bynciau ar gael i ddisgyblion Ysgol Penweddig nag sydd ar gael i ddisgyblion Ysgol Penglais.
- Felly mae [REDACTED] yn cefnogi'r cynigion yn gryf ac am weld polisiâu'n cael eu llunio'n fuan i gefnogi dilyniant a sicrhau bod disgyblion yn hyderus i barhau a'u haddysg trwy'r Gymraeg hyd at 18 oed. Yn benodol, dylid sicrhau bod blwyddyn 3-6 Ysgol Comins Coch yn gyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn 3 blynedd o gyflwyno'r newidiadau a newid Ysgol Penglais yn gyfrwng Cymraeg, tra'n gwella'r [REDACTED] yn Ysgol Penweddig, o fewn 7 mlynedd o gyflwyno'r newidiadau am y bydd pob ysgol sy'n eu bwydo yn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg.

[REDACTED]
1achwedd 2023

[REDACTED] Clic 20/11/23

To whom it may concern,

I apologise if this is the incorrect method to respond to consultations, but there are no clear instructions on your website that I could find, so I hope this finds its way to the correct addressee.

In regards to the proposal to make 5 primary schools Welsh medium, I do not support this and strongly recommend the council reconsider. As an educator for over 10 years in both Welsh and English schools, and as a parent of a three year old who is soon to begin primary school on one of these schools, I am concerned this enforced Welsh language medium will ultimately lead to issues with literacy and oracy skills, which should really be the main educational focus post covid.

I am Welsh, I can speak decent Welsh, but English is my first language and the most widespread language in the world, and still the most broadly spoken language in Wales and Ceredigion specifically. There are more effective ways to encourage children to speak Welsh through second language classes, cultural classes, and bilingual streaming which don't potentially isolate a large population of the students and run the risk of them being left behind because they are being taught through a language they don't know and that will not be reinforced at home for many.

Furthermore there are very obvious logistical issues - teaching is in a recruitment crisis and to narrow the field of potential educators further has proved to be challenging on multiple schools already. I believe most parents would rather have their children taught by a trained professional who can speak conversational Welsh than an untrained teacher who can speak it fluently. Some jobs simply aren't being filled because there are no fluent Welsh applicants, and so the students are taught by non-specialist supply staff, which is obviously more detrimental to their education than having a bilingual teacher.

I support the need to embrace Welsh culture and encourage the learning of the language, but to enforce it from 3 when their cognitive abilities are still grasping the concepts of language will inevitably leave some students, particularly those with ALN, at a huge disadvantage, which doesn't seem to have been considered at all. I have seen this anecdotally already, with some students coming from English speaking households who are becoming isolated and deteriorating academically because they are unable to access the content in a lot of subjects - not because they are unintelligent, but because they can't understand. I fundamentally believe that all schools are responsible for ensuring that EVERY student has the chance to reach their potential, and yet the reports seem to spend a great deal of time considering political and financial aspects. Nowhere in the advantages/disadvantages tables does it reference pupils wellbeing or the potential impact on their literacy and oracy development.

I doubt my response will be awarded much consideration, but the need to plead this case is one of both personal and professional significance to me.

Please reconsider.



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 November 2023 16:49
To: Ceredigion language provision Comins Coch; Ceredigion language provision Plascrug; Ceredigion language provision Llwyny-Yr-Eos; Ceredigion language provision St Padarn
Subject: WESP Consultation

[Some people who received this message don't often get emails from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

Apologies for the lateness of this email in relation to the consultation on changing the language of teaching at Plascrug, St Padarn's, Comins Coch and Llwyn yr Eos primary schools. I hope you are still taking comments.

As a bilingual Welsh - English speaker who uses both languages daily in my work and social life, I truly appreciate the value of the Welsh language. I moved to the area at the age of 9 and attended a Welsh medium primary school and have been grateful for this opportunity since.

Within my work role, I visit all of the primary schools in the Aberystwyth area on a regular basis to support staff and children.

However, I do not agree with the change of all schools within the Aberystwyth area to Welsh medium in the Foundation Phase. My reasons for this are as follows :

- Many of the families who register their children at the above 4 schools (Plascrug and St Padarn in particular) have moved to the area from different countries across the world. Their home languages vary from Arabic, Polish, Ukrainian, Igbo, Turkish and many others. Often their parents work in the local hospital and are contributing significantly to our local economy. If they do not have the option for an English - medium school for their children, will they move to the area? Or will this put them off doing so? Alongside this, some of these parents do not have English-language skills which allow them to help their children with homework as it is. By changing this to Welsh, you would be adding an additional barrier to this.
- These 4 schools are already incorporating a good level of Welsh into their day to day routines within the classroom, more and more so over the past 2 or so years and many of the children have a good level of basic Welsh by the end of year 1/2 which they can use in basic social interactions and beyond.
- There are excellent, experienced teachers within all of these schools whose level of Welsh language may not be sufficient to teach through it day to day. It is unfair to take quality staff away from children in the earliest, and crucial years of their education because of the language they feel confident teaching in.
- For children with Additional Learning Needs (particularly in relation to language and literacy) whose home language is English / any other language other than Welsh, the priority should be developing of their home language, which they can then build additional language(s) upon, if needed. By adding Welsh into the mix, you do add a layer of complexity and issues arise about which language they should receive Additional Learning Provision through. For children whose home language is Welsh, their parents will send them to one of the many local Welsh-medium primary schools available in the area.
- Choice - the beauty of the current system is that parents have a choice. They can choose whether they want their children to receive their education through the medium of English or Welsh. This, I feel, is a real advantage in our area and families appreciate this.

I hope you can take these points into consideration and that the parents within these schools have had / will have ample opportunity to share their thoughts too, not just in writing but in well-advertised discussion forums, where accessibility is taken into consideration (easy-read information, interpreters etc.)

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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