

Swansea Council

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) September 2022 – August 2032

This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is made under Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the content complies with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019. We have given due regard to the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers when setting our targets.

Contents

Our ten year vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision of Welsh-medium education in our area

The year 2050: The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales...Our vision is to secure favourable circumstances throughout the country that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child, an education system that provides Welsh language skills for all...

Cymraeg 2050 – A million Welsh speakers (Welsh Government, 2017)

Since the turn of the century Swansea has seen a marked increase in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education. This increase in demand has been supported by the opening of a further three Welsh-medium primary schools and one additional Welsh-medium comprehensive school. In addition, the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme has supported the Council in making a huge investment across the Welsh-medium school stock.

In 2022 we will see more Welsh-medium places being created with the opening of the new and enhanced accommodation and facilities for YGG Tan y lan and YGG Tirdeunaw. This will be followed by additional classroom space at YGG Bryn y Môr and YGG Y Login Fach. To complement this provision we are also delivering enhanced provision at both our Welsh-medium Comprehensive Schools Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe that includes improving the learning environments both internally and externally. This provides a solid foundation for our journey towards 2050.

With the creation of these additional places, we aim to work with all our partners to promote the benefits of bilingualism to ensure that all parents and families can make an informed decision at the earliest possible time in their child's life. We also recognise that it is more difficult in some parts of the city and county to access Welsh-medium provision from an early age. We will seek to increase opportunities to access Early Years provision so that more parents have a real choice in making a preference for their children's education. As the additional places in our current school stock are filled, we will review where further places are needed in Swansea to realise the full extent of Swansea's target. This will include identifying areas where Welsh-medium education is less easily accessible.

The development and expansion of Welsh-medium education remains our vision and we recognise the importance of creating opportunities for all Swansea pupils to become bilingual/multilingual so that they emerge from our education system, proud of their identity and confident to use all the languages that they have acquired.

In promoting bilingualism, we are giving all our children an opportunity to thrive in the language of their choice, increasing their life opportunities and by learning more than one language, facilitating the learning of other languages.

For our vision to be realised it is imperative that we also recognise the importance of the use of Welsh beyond the classroom. We will, through the Council's Welsh Language Strategy and by working with all our partners, continue to maximise opportunities for all Swansea learners to use Welsh in all aspects of everyday life.

Taking all of this into consideration, our vision for the next ten years is as follows:

1. Providing equal opportunities for all learners to learn Welsh and speak the language confidently and to promote the benefits of bilingualism
2. To increase the percentage of pupils opting for Welsh-medium education and to ensure that it is available and accessible to all learners, within reasonable travelling distance from their homes
3. That learners who have attended a Welsh-medium setting in the primary phase will be encouraged and expected to continue with this when transferring to subsequent key stages in the secondary phase
4. To ensure significant growth in Welsh-medium education, to increase the number of people of all ages who become fluent in Welsh, English and other languages and who can use their languages confidently with their families, friends, neighbours and in the workplace
5. To aspire that, through this plan, Swansea contributes significantly to the national goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050

Consultation arrangements

Consultees

This Consultation Document will be published on the Swansea Council website and made available to the following:

The Governing Bodies and headteachers of all schools maintained by Swansea Council
Carmarthenshire County Council
Neath Port-Talbot Council
Powys County Council
Ceredigion Council
Pembrokeshire County Council
Gower College Swansea
Estyn
Diocese of St David's
Diocese of Menevia
The Welsh Language Commissioner

Education workforce training providers:

Swansea University
University of Wales Trinity St David

Organisations providing services to children and young people as the local authority considers appropriate:

Mudiad Meithrin
Yr Urdd
Menter Iaith
SNAP Cymru

Other persons or bodies as appear to the local authority to be appropriate:

Merched y Wawr
Partneriaeth Addysg Gymraeg Abertawe (PAGA)
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)
Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

The consultation period

This consultation period will commence on Monday 27 September and close on 22 November 2021.

During this period, you can express your views by writing to the Director of Education by using any of the following methods:

Letter to: Mrs Helen Morgan-Rees c/o education@swansea.gov.uk or
Director of Education

Civic Centre
Swansea
SA1 3SN

Response Form See the back of this document

Online: TBC

Please note that all correspondence should be received by no later than 22
November 2021.

Your questions

The content of this document is likely to provide answers to the most common
questions that will arise. However, should you have any questions not covered,
please contact us at education@swansea.gov.uk.

Background information

Population and Linguistic Characteristics

Pupil Population Trend and Forecasts

As at April 2021, there were 32611 full time equivalent (FTE) pupils (excluding nursery) in all Swansea schools, these can be broken down as follows:

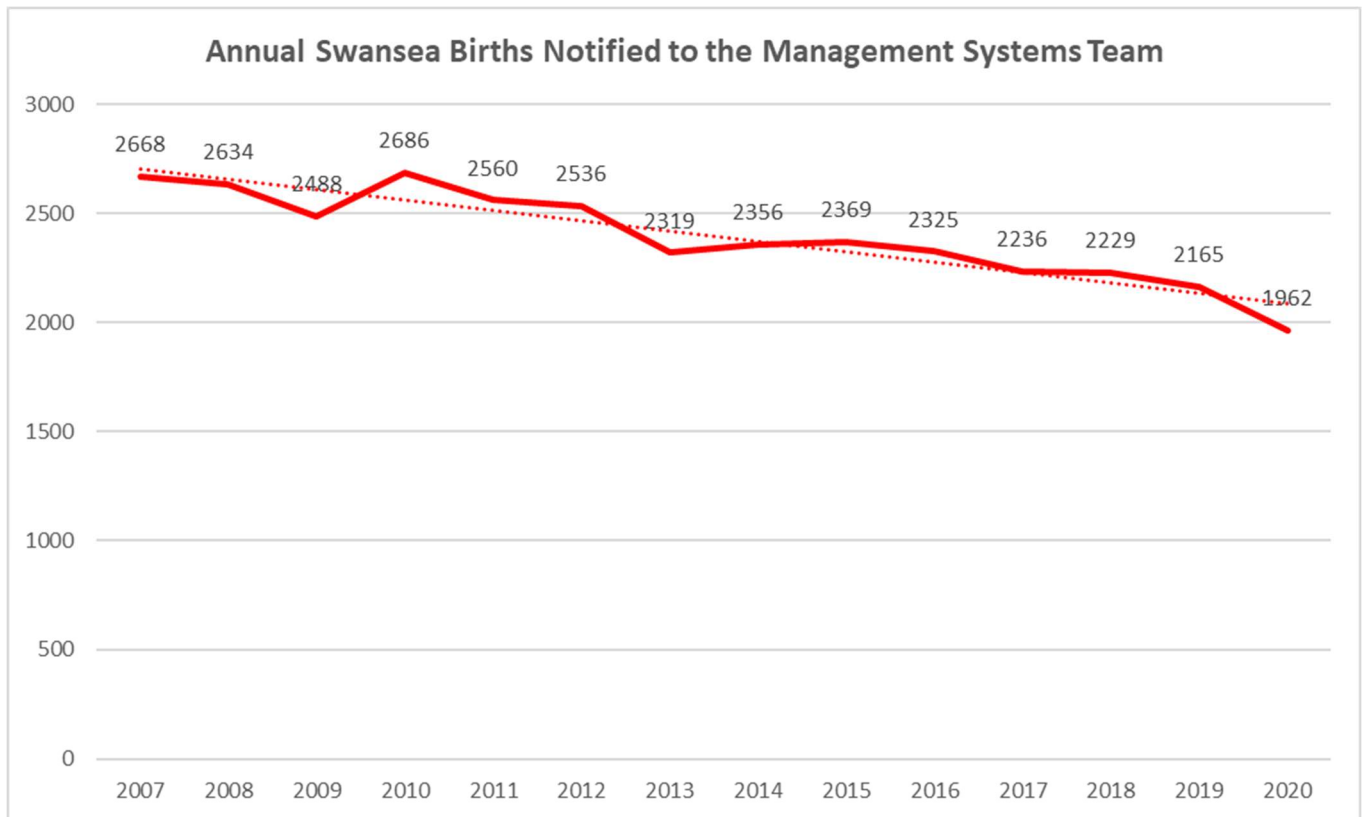
| School Rolls | Total Welsh and English streams | Number of students in Welsh medium provision | Percentage of students in Welsh language streams |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Primary | 18362 | 2703 | 14.72% |
| Y7-11 | 12776 | 1671 | 13.08% |
| Y12-Y13 | 1473 | 313 | 21.25% |
| Total | 32611 | 4687 | 14.37% |

Numbers of Births Registered in Swansea 2007-2020

The birth rate in Swansea has seen a dramatic decline over the last 10 years. In the longer term this is likely to lead to empty places across the school stock in Swansea. As we work towards increasing the percentage of pupils going into Welsh-medium Education, it is important that we consider the impact of the birth rate.

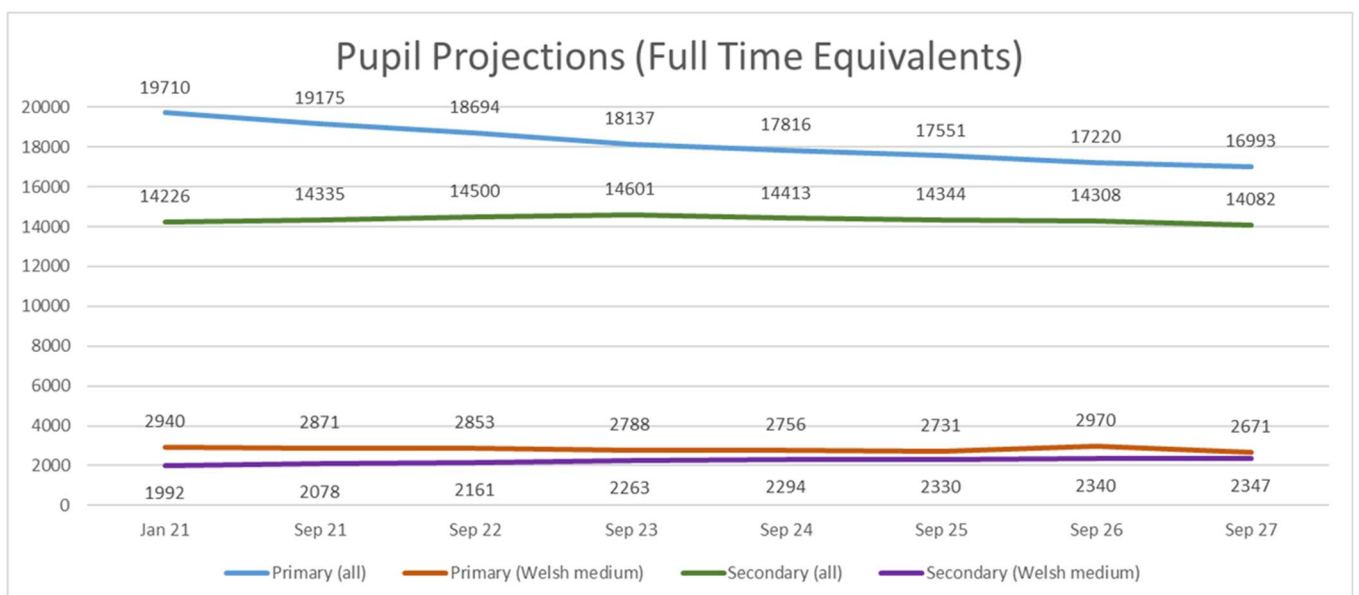
There was a further significant drop in 2020, however given the Covid-19 pandemic we will treat this data with caution as it is such a marked drop from previous figures and trend line.

| Year | Births |
|-------------|--------|
| 2007 | 2,668 |
| 2008 | 2,634 |
| 2009 | 2,488 |
| 2010 | 2,686 |
| 2011 | 2,560 |
| 2012 | 2,536 |
| 2013 | 2,319 |
| 2014 | 2,356 |
| 2015 | 2,369 |
| 2016 | 2,325 |
| 2017 | 2,236 |
| 2018 | 2,229 |
| 2019 | 2,165 |
| 2020 | 1,962 |



Pupil projections

There has been a similarly marked drop in pupil numbers in 2020 which is reflected in the latest available pupil projections that are shown in the graph's below. Given the Covid-19 pandemic we will again treat this data with caution as it is inconsistent with previous projections and trends. Moreover, the longer term impact of the further significant enhancement of Welsh-medium places and facilities on parental perceptions and choices is still to be seen.



Ability to speak Welsh

The results of the 2011 Census indicated that 11.4% of the population in Swansea were able to speak Welsh; this is below the Welsh average of 19%. Whilst the Census is the key source of information about the number of people who can speak Welsh, the Annual Population Survey (APS) collects information about respondents' Welsh speaking ability and also includes a question on how often people speak Welsh. The APS estimates of Welsh language ability are historically higher than those produced by the Census. It is encouraging to note the steady increasing trend for Swansea (23.5% by December 2020) representing a sound foundation for the future.

Over the past 10-15 years we have enhanced provision for Welsh-medium learners significantly. However, to deliver our 2050 aspiration we need to enhance greatly the number of learners opting for Welsh-medium.

Current Welsh Provision

Early Years

The early exposure of children to the Welsh language is an important factor in expanding Welsh-medium education provision, and is key in the context of our target to increase the number of Year 1 learners taught through the medium of Welsh. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment presents an opportunity to measure demand in this area and in the context of provision through the medium of Welsh. A new assessment is due to be completed in 2022 which will provide clear current data on the provision in Swansea. As with statutory Education provision it is important that we support the sector to increase their language offer and increase the number of parents choosing a Welsh-language provision.

In 2017 55% of all parents that responded stated that they held an ambition for child(ren) to be bi-lingual in English and Welsh.

Although there were some incidences of parents stating that they were not accessing formal childcare due to an absence of Welsh-medium provision or them being unable to locate such provision, such a problem was not evidently widespread.

There is currently one Welsh-medium Flying Start (Dechrau'n Deg) setting in Swansea, seven Cylchoedd Mudiad Meithrin and nine Ti a Fi groups.

All 10 Welsh-medium primary schools provide a part-time nursery offer. As it currently stands there are more opportunities for pre-school in English-medium provision and therefore this can impact on the decisions being taken by parents early in their child's development due to the distance or proximity of their Welsh-medium catchment school.

In Swansea **all** primary schools provide part-time nursery education for parents who would like their child to attend a nursery class. The policy of the local authority is to provide part-time nursery education only. A nursery place will be available for all children from the term following their third birthday.

Mudiad Meithrin Provision

| Cylch Meithrin (CM) | Ti a Fi Group attached? |
|---|--------------------------------|
| CM Clydach Ysgol Gellionnen Clydach SA6 5HE | No |
| CM Meini Bach Ysgol Y Cwm Heol Jersey Bonymaen SA1 7DL | Yes |
| CM Treboeth a Tirdeunaw Canolfan Gymunedol De Penlan Heol Frank Penlan SA5 7AH | Yes |
| CM Parcywerin Pafiliwn Bowlio Parc y Werin Gorseinon SA4 4UX | Yes |
| CM Pontarddulais Bont Elim Church Alltiago Road Pontarddulais SA4 8HU | Yes |

| | |
|---|-----|
| CM Sgeti Canolfan Gymunedol Brynmill Heol St Alban Brynmill SA2 0BP | Yes |
| CM Y Mwmbwls Neuadd Vivian Ffordd Mwmbwls SA3 5LT | Yes |

Cylchoedd Ti a Fi (unattached to a Chylch Meithrin)

Cylch Ti a Fi Penllergaer
Neuadd Llywellyn
Heol Abertawe
Penllergaer
SA4 9AQ

Cylch Ti a Fi Clydach
Neuadd y Nant
Heol y Nant
Clydach
SA6 5HB

Cylch Ti a Fi Waunarlwydd
Neuadd Gymunedol Waunarlwydd
Heol Victoria
Waunarlwydd SA5 6SY

Welsh-medium Schools: Details as published in the Information for Parents booklet

| Name, address and telephone number of establishment | Age range | Type | Number on roll Apr 2021 | AN Sept 2021 | Total Capacity Jan 21 | Name of Head teacher |
|---|-----------|------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| YGG Bryniago Lower James Street, Pontarddulais, Swansea, SA4 1HY. (01792) 882012 E:Mail YGG.Bryniago@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Bryniago | 3-11 | WM | 214 | 31 | 222 | Mrs N Jones |
| YGG Bryn y Môr St, Alban's Road, Brynmill, Swansea, SA2 0BP. (01792) 466354 E:mail: YGG.Brynymor@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Brynymor | 3-11 | WM | 274 | 37 | 260 | Mrs E Wakeham |
| YGG Gellionnen Gellionnen Road, Clydach, Swansea, SA6 5HE. (01792) 845489 E:mail: YGG.Gellionnen@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Gellionnen | 3-11 | WM | 258 | 43 | 305 | Mr K Davies |
| YGG Llwynderw West Cross Lane, West Cross, Swansea, SA3 5LS. (01792) 407130 E:mail: YGG.Llwynderw@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Llwynderw | 3-11 | WM | 364 | 45 | 320 | Ms I Griffiths |
| YGG Lonlas Walters Road, Llansamlet, Swansea, SA7 9RW. (01792) 771160 E:mail: YGG.Lonlas@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Lonlas | 3-11 | WM | 520 | 75 | 530 | Mrs K Thomas |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------|----|-----|----|-----|-------------------|
| YGG Pontybrenin Loughor Road, Kingsbridge, Gorseinon, Swansea, SA4 6AU. (01792) 894210 E:mail: YGG.Pontybrenin@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: www.yggpontybrenin.com/ | 3-11 | WM | 599 | 71 | 501 | Mr C H Scourfield |
| YGG Tan y lan Tan-Y-Lan Terrace, Morriston, Swansea, SA6 7DU. (01792) 772800 E:mail: YGGTanylan@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: www.yggtan-y-lan.co.uk/ | 3-11 | WM | 196 | 60 | 130 | Mr B Jones |
| YGG Tirdeunaw Heol Ddu, Tirdeunaw, Swansea, SA5 7HP. (01792) 774612 E:mail: Tirdeunaw@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/Tirdeunaw | 3-11 | WM | 408 | 75 | 413 | Mrs J James |
| YG Y Cwm Jersey Road, Bon-y-Maen, Swansea, SA1 7DL.(01792) 650326 E:mail: ygyccwm@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: www.ygyccwm.co.uk/ | 3-11 | WM | 164 | 28 | 197 | Mrs S David |
| YGG Y Login Fach Roseland Road, Waunarlwydd, Swansea, SA5 4ST. (01792) 874399 E:mail: YGG.LoginFach@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: www.yloginfach.co.uk/ | 3-11 | WM | 247 | 30 | 214 | Miss U Evans |

| Name, address and telephone number of establishment | Age range | Number on roll Apr 2021 | AN Sept 2021 | Total Capacity Jan 21 | Name of Head teacher |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| WELSH MEDIUM COMMUNITY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS | | | | | |
| Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe Heol Gwyrosydd, Penlan, Swansea, SA5 7BU. (01792) 560600 E:mail:YGG.Bryntawe@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: swansea-edunet.gov.uk/en/schools/bryntawe | 11-18 | 972 | 205 | 1,243 | Mr S Davies |
| Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr Talbot Street, Gowerton, Swansea, SA4 3DB. (01792) 872403 E:mail: Ysgol.Gyfun.Gŵyr@swansea-edunet.gov.uk Web: www.yggwyr.org.uk/ | 11-18 | 1,210 | 173 | 1,069 | Mr D Jenkins |

Secondary Welsh medium provision

In Swansea we have a very good track record of Pupil retention when they transition from key stage 2 to key stage 3. Over the last three years this has seen 99.7%, 98.7% and 97.5% respectively transitioning from Welsh-medium primary schools to Welsh-medium secondary schools in Swansea.

In GCSE Welsh First Language, 88.0% in 2021 of students attained grades A*- C, and numbers entering this subject have increased steadily in the nine years up to 2021.

In the GCSE Welsh Second Language (full course), over 74.8% in 2021 attain grades A*- C and numbers entering the subject have increased in the eight years since 2012 from 239 entries to 1736 entries in 2021. The increase in entries is due partly to the withdrawal of the short course option in this subject, with all entries being full course from 2019.

Performance in Welsh is also strong in key stages 2 and 3, but no data was collected in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Post 16 Welsh Medium provision

A wide range of courses are available for students who wish to stay on in full-time education after their 16th birthday. Students may choose to continue their studies in a secondary school with a sixth form or a Further Education (FE) college.

Both Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe and Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr offer sixth form provision through the medium of Welsh.

The FE college, Gower College Swansea also offers a number of courses through the medium of Welsh.

Welsh in the new curriculum

The Curriculum for Wales sets out that all our children and young people are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world, and are supported to develop as ambitious and capable learners who can communicate effectively using both Welsh and English. All learners should have appropriate pathways for learning Welsh and English to enable them to develop the confidence to use both languages in everyday life.

'Developing learners' comfort and ability to work in two languages also provides a strong foundation for learners to engage with different languages they encounter and develop learning in other languages as they progress. Schools should ensure rich language environments for all learners and reading, listening, speaking and writing across the curriculum should be developmentally appropriate.'
Curriculum for Wales

We will support learners in our schools, regardless of their linguistic category to develop their Welsh skills as set out in the What Matters statements of the Languages, Literacy and Communication area of learning and experience.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 also requires public bodies to work towards 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'. We have a duty to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and to work towards the achievement of the well-being goals. This must be a strong thread through everything that we do.

The Workforce

We have used the data collected about the Welsh language skills of the workforce in the School Workforce Census to identify current skills gaps and where the gaps are likely to occur in the future. Changes in the amount of Welsh taught in our English medium schools will affect the skills needs of staff and the linguistic support required. The chart below provides an indication of ability levels.

Whilst there is significant Welsh-language proficiency within the school workforce, this does not necessarily mean that staff will all be confident in teaching through the medium of Welsh. The number of staff required in future to meet the national aspiration for continuing growth in Welsh-medium provision would appear to present quite a challenge.

| School Workforce Census 2020 : Ability in Welsh | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| All schools | Headcount | | | Percentage of Headcount | | |
| Level | Teachers | Support Staff | Total | Teachers | Support Staff | Total |
| Proficient Level | 364 | 213 | 577 | 18.2% | 8.9% | 13.2% |
| Advanced Level | 77 | 37 | 114 | 3.9% | 1.5% | 2.6% |
| Intermediate Level | 176 | 58 | 234 | 9.1% | 2.1% | 5.4% |
| Foundation Level | 416 | 192 | 608 | 21.1% | 7.7% | 13.9% |
| Entry Level | 509 | 750 | 1259 | 26.0% | 31.3% | 28.9% |
| No language skills | 424 | 1139 | 1563 | 21.5% | 48.3% | 35.9% |
| Information not yet obtained | 2 | 5 | 7 | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Grand Total | 1968 | 2394 | 4362 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| English medium only | Headcount | | | Percentage of Headcount | | |
| Level | Teachers | Support Staff | Total | Teachers | Support Staff | Total |
| Proficient Level | 109 | 38 | 147 | 6.4% | 1.7% | 3.8% |
| Advanced Level | 70 | 20 | 90 | 4.1% | 0.9% | 2.3% |
| Intermediate Level | 176 | 52 | 228 | 10.3% | 2.4% | 5.8% |
| Foundation Level | 416 | 192 | 608 | 24.4% | 8.8% | 15.6% |
| Entry Level | 509 | 750 | 1259 | 29.8% | 34.2% | 32.3% |
| No language skills | 424 | 1135 | 1559 | 24.9% | 51.8% | 40.0% |
| Information not yet obtained | 2 | 5 | 7 | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Grand Total | 1706 | 2192 | 3898 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

| Welsh medium only | Headcount | | | Percentage of Headcount | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Level | Teachers | Support Staff | Total | Teachers | Support Staff | Total |
| Proficient Level | 255 | 175 | 430 | 97.3% | 86.6% | 92.7% |
| Advanced Level | 7 | 17 | 24 | 2.7% | 8.4% | 5.2% |
| Intermediate Level | | 6 | 6 | 0.0% | 3.0% | 1.3% |
| Foundation Level | | | | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Entry Level | | | | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| No language skills | | 4 | 4 | 0.0% | 2.0% | 0.9% |
| Information not yet obtained | | | | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Grand Total | 262 | 202 | 464 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Provision for latecomers

The purpose of the provision for latecomers is to provide intensive Welsh language learning courses to enable children to achieve the level of fluency required to transfer to education in a Welsh-medium school. This is currently delivered through a peripatetic model of learning with the support going to the learner rather than the learner travelling to a specific site within the boundaries of the city and county.

Provision and support for children who are new to Welsh in the immersion sessions are intended for pupils in key stage 2, and start as soon as possible after they transfer to a Welsh-medium school. Latecomers in the foundation phase benefit from the immersion measures that exist in their school.

Welsh Medium Provision for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Considerable changes are planned in Wales from September 2021 in relation to the statutory provision required to meet the needs of learners with SEN or ALN. The ALNET Act 2018 requires local authorities to keep the arrangements for supporting learners with SEN or ALN within their area under review and consider whether these arrangements are sufficient. The ALNET Act 2018 also includes a statutory requirement to take reasonable steps to create a Welsh medium and bilingual system of support for learners with SEN or ALN.

Until the anticipated sequential implementation of The New Code, from September 2021, local authorities are required to comply with the existing SEN Code of Practice for Wales 2002 (The 2002 Code) to fulfil their statutory duties towards learners with SEN or ALN. The 2002 Code states that learners have SEN or ALN if they have a learning difficulty that calls for a special educational provision to be made for them.

Throughout Swansea there are a range of specialist provisions which include Specialist Teaching Learning Facilities at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe. As the numbers in Welsh-medium education increase further, we will consider options for further specific Welsh-medium provision to support this group of learners.

School Transport

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 requires local authorities to provide home to school transport for eligible children. This relates to statutory school age (Reception) pupils and does not include Nursery aged pupils.

In considering whether a school is suitable, the Learner Travel Wales Measure 2008 states that neither the child's or parent's language preference or mother tongue should have any bearing on whether a school is suitable. However, the measure requires local authorities to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh. For this reason, Swansea Council will provide free transport to the nearest suitable school which provides education through the medium of either Welsh or English provided that the pupil meets the distance criteria or non-availability of a safe walking route

Post 16 students

The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 requires local authorities to consider the needs of learners who are aged 16-19 years; however, there is no requirement for local authorities to provide school or college transport free of charge to any learner who is more than compulsory school age. The authority, however, uses its discretionary powers and will provide transport for learners over compulsory school age who meet the criteria of minimum distance or lack of a safe/available route to their designated school or college, or special educational need. The Council provides eligible learners with bus passes to travel to their designated school.

The Council delegates funding and responsibility for the provision of post-16 college transport to the two FE colleges. If the designated school or linked college does not offer the particular course of study that the student requires, transport will be provided to the nearest school/college that offers the course if it meets the minimum distance criteria.

Our ten year target outlining the expected increase in Year 1 children who are taught through the medium of Welsh

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 requires us to set a ten year target outlining the expected increase in Year 1 children who are taught through the medium of Welsh in the Swansea area during the lifespan of the Plan. This is the overarching ten year target for the 2022 - 2032 WESP.

The number of learners being taught through the medium of Welsh will vary in each year group, therefore the target is based on the number of Year 1 learners (5 and 6 year olds), representing the start of statutory education. PLASC data for Year 1 learners represents the most comprehensive dataset available for learners at the earliest stages of primary school education.

In addition, local authorities have been grouped into different categories reflecting the differences (and recognising similar elements) between the 22 local authorities. The factors considered when grouping included the percentage of learners taught in Welsh in our area; the models of Welsh-medium education provision adopted by us and the linguistic nature of our area. For this purpose Swansea has been placed in Group 3.

Group 3: Between 14% and 19% of Year 1 children in these local authorities were being taught through the medium of Welsh in 2019/20. It may be that Welsh-medium community education is the norm in one/a very small number of areas, but this is the exception not the rule. There is usually a choice between Welsh-medium education and English-medium education.

Swansea Target

| | 2019/2020 | | 2030/31 Target | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| | | | Lower Range | | Upper Range | |
| Swansea | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| | 390 | 15.4% | 590 | 23% | 695 | 27% |

The lower range has been set so that the national target of 30% of Year 1 learners being taught through the medium of Welsh by 2030/31 is achieved. The upper range should not be seen as an upper limit – we are encouraged to exceed the targets where possible.

As we prepare this 10-year plan the number of Year 1 children being taught through the medium of Welsh (January 2021) is 388, representing 15.1% of that year's cohort in Swansea and by April 2021 it was 383 – 14.9%.

The admission number for our Welsh-medium primary schools in September 2021 is 495. This means that there is currently capacity for an additional 107 children to be

taught through the medium of Welsh in the Year 1 cohort. This would represent 19.2% of the current cohort.

The Council aspires to significantly increase the number of pupils and families who choose Welsh medium provision in Swansea. On the basis of the target % increases prescribed by Welsh Government, and our forecast of the pupil population over the next 10 years, we will need to:

- Increase the number of Year 1 pupils being taught through the medium of Welsh by between 200 to 400 pupils (based on the current cohort figures). In view of the location and linguistic make-up of our schools currently, we have the following complementary strategies to achieve the target increase in Year 1 children taught through the medium of Welsh:
 - Increase the Welsh-medium pre-school offer as part of a wider marketing strategy to promote the benefits of being bilingual. This could include at least one Cylch Meithrin linked to every Welsh-medium primary school and/or areas within their catchment and looking at opportunities to increase the Flying Start Welsh offer within our current settings
 - Fill the approx. 120 additional Year 1 Welsh-medium places already available in our schools
 - Monitor the increase in demand and map future provision required during the life of the Strategy
 - Establish new Welsh medium school(s)/increase capacity in areas where there is high demand and/or identifying areas where Welsh-medium education is currently less easily accessible. In such cases, it may be necessary to include projects in a future capital programme.
 - Monitor and review the transport offer based on any future changes to the Travel Measure and the requirements of Swansea's Climate Change agenda

Key outcomes

To support the planning process, we are required to arrange our Plan around the outcomes below. The outcomes reflect a learner's education journey and are consistent with the policy areas of Cymraeg 2050 and Education in Wales: Our National Mission.

- Outcome 1: More nursery children/three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More reception class children/five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

Objective 1: More Nursery children / 3 year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

The number of nursery children/three year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh over the last five years is shown in the table below.

| Nursery | January 2017 | | January 2018 | | January 2019 | | January 2020 | | April 2021 | |
|---------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Swansea | 522 | 16.0% | 507 | 15.4% | 514 | 15.6% | 512 | 16.2% | 541 | 15.4% |

For comparison purposes the numbers over the same period in our English-medium Nursery provision is as follows:

| Nursery | January 2017 | | January 2018 | | January 2019 | | January 2020 | | April 2021 | |
|---------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Swansea | 2751 | 84.0% | 2778 | 84.6% | 2777 | 84.4% | 2649 | 83.8% | 2982 | 84.6% |

It is also important to note, as stated earlier in this document, the declining birth rate in Swansea during this same period and that the focus should be on the percentage of pupils rather than the actual numbers. We also need to fully understand the impact of Covid-19 and recognise that projections at this stage need to be treated with some caution.

What we are required to do...

Objective 1 requires us to set out how we will use data derived from our review of the sufficiency of childcare provision for our area (under duties set out in regulation 3 of the Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016) to inform planning of Welsh-medium education.

We must also make clear how we will provide parents and carers with information as to the availability and type of Welsh-medium education provision on offer, how we will provide parents and carers with information stating that Welsh-medium education is an option for persons regardless of their linguistic background and how we will make best use of information regarding the benefits that bilingualism and multilingualism can bring.

Finally, we need a statement setting out how we, in collaboration with other local authorities as necessary, will promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language in relation to learner transport in line with the duty set out under section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008).

What we will do...

Provision

Develop/maintain a Welsh-language pre-school provision in each Welsh-medium Primary School catchment area by 2025. We will continue to work closely with Mudiad Meithrin and other partners to develop services in areas where there is currently no provision.

Provide a Welsh-medium offer in all our Flying Start settings and explore opportunities to increase the number of Welsh-language settings. There is currently one specific Welsh-language Flying Start in Swansea.

Promotion

Develop an appropriate digital platform on the Council's website which will provide parents and prospective parents with the necessary information about the benefits of being bilingual and the Welsh-medium pre-school and education offer in Swansea to support them in making informed decisions about the future of their children. The focus on parents of early years children is particularly important and will include signposting and resources to help parents to support their children.

Work with our partners to develop and deliver a clear marketing strategy around the benefits of being bilingual.

Admissions

Undertake a full review of the application process in order to ensure that there are opportunities at several points during the process to provide information about the Welsh-medium provision options in Swansea. This will include linking in with the online platform and further detail on the provision available in individual schools. This review will be extended to our annual 'Information for Parents' publication.

Training

Use Child Sufficiency Data to audit the current provision and identify training needs of practitioners across the sector. This data will allow us to plan relevant training and support the sector in promoting the benefits of being bilingual and signposting to the Welsh-medium offer.

Secondary schools to work with Mudiad Meithrin and Gower College Swansea to offer the childcare qualification and promote local career opportunities in the sector.

Transport

Review the current Transport situation for nursery pupils and, subject to any changes in the Welsh Transport Measure, review what can be done to further promote access to the Welsh-medium offer. This will be considered alongside the Swansea Climate Change agenda.

Childcare

Use data from the annual Self-Assessment Service Statement (SASS) completed by all Care Inspectorate for Wales (CIW) settings to map the current Welsh language offer.

Develop a Swansea benchmark to identify and promote the Welsh language offer across all childcare settings.

Encourage and promote an Active Offer across all pre-school and childcare providers.

Objective 2: More Reception class children / five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

The number of reception class children/five year olds receiving their education through the medium of Welsh over the last five years is shown in the table below.

| Reception | January 2017 | | January 2018 | | January 2019 | | January 2020 | | January 2021 | |
|-----------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Swansea | 438 | 15.6% | 412 | 15.8% | 397 | 15.7% | 400 | 15.5% | 379 | 15.4% |

What we are required to do...

Objective 2 requires us to set a target outlining the expected increase in the number of children in reception taught through the medium of Welsh in our area during the lifespan of the Plan.

We must also set out how we will achieve the expected increase in the number of children in reception taught through the medium of Welsh, how applications we make for grant funding from the Welsh Ministers in respect of our maintained schools will take account of the target to increase the number of Year 1 children taught through the medium of Welsh and our arrangements with regard to the provision for latecomers to Welsh-medium education, including how and when information is provided to parents and carers.

What we will do...

Our target will be in line with our overall target of increasing the number of Year 1 pupils being taught through the medium of Welsh by between 200 to 400 pupils (based on the current cohort figures) during the life of the Plan.

Increase numbers in Reception

Work with Mudiad Meithrin, Flying Start settings and partners within Swansea to inform parents/carers of the benefits of Welsh-medium education and bilingualism. Information will continue to be provided via leaflets, websites and social media including the digital platform set out in Outcome 1.

Work with Mudiad Meithrin to ensure that individual Cylchoedd Meithrin work closely with their local Welsh-medium schools and Swansea Council to ensure a high percentage of children transfer to Welsh-medium schools.

Continue to monitor spare capacity in Swansea Schools on a regular basis and ensure plans are put in place to address any issues/opportunities identified.

We will consider housing and economic developments and impact on school places and review/expand provision as required.

Grant Funding

The Council will continue to seek to maximise opportunities for grant funding from the Welsh Ministers to increase Welsh medium provision in our schools. We are currently working on bids for the current Funding tranche and will communicate further on these as they develop and decisions are made.

Provision for Latecomers

We are currently carrying out a detailed review of our current provision to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose to support the needs of all learners and their families. The findings of this review will be reported back to the Education Strategic Leads Board and, if required, a business case on future provision considered.

As the demand for Welsh medium education increases across Swansea, the local authority is committed to providing opportunities for pupils to access the appropriate linguistic support. Consideration would also be given for bespoke provision and support for pupils regardless of the language of the school they attend.

We will also review the need for a secondary provision to support learners who want to make the transition later in their Education journey and also to support current pupils in our schools who are at risk of leaving Welsh-medium education.

Objective 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

In Swansea we have a very good track record of pupil retention when they transition from key stage 2 to key stage 3. Over the last three years this has seen 99.7%, 98.7% and 97.5% respectively transitioning from Welsh-medium primary schools to Welsh-medium secondary schools in Swansea.

Welsh Medium Transition Numbers

| Estab | School | Year 6 leavers in..... | | | Year 7 intake in..... | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| 2189 | Y G G Bryniago | 19 | 34 | 24 | | | |
| 2098 | Y G G Bryn-Y-Mor | 31 | 33 | 44 | | | |
| 2133 | Y G G Felindre | 0 | 6 | 0 | | | |
| 2232 | Y G G Gellionnen | 29 | 28 | 43 | | | |
| 2235 | Y G G Llwynderw | 40 | 42 | 43 | | | |
| 2036 | Y G G Lonlas | 77 | 68 | 51 | | | |
| 2212 | Y G G Pontybrenin | 49 | 70 | 53 | | | |
| 2242 | Y G G Tan-y-Lan | 7 | 14 | 19 | | | |
| 2231 | Y G G Tirdeunaw | 53 | 61 | 56 | | | |
| 2229 | Y G G Y Login Fach | 30 | 30 | 30 | | | |
| 2245 | Y G Y Cwm | 0 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| 4078 | Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Tawe | | | | 164 | 169 | 164 |
| 4074 | Ysgol Gyfun Gwyr | | | | 170 | 214 | 193 |
| | Totals | 335 | 388 | 366 | 334 | 383 | 357 |
| | Retention percentage | | | | 99.7% | 98.7% | 97.5% |

What we are required to do...

Objective 3 requires us to set out how we will ensure the continuation of persons taught in Welsh on transfer from one year group to another and plan accordingly if retention rates are a cause for concern.

We must also set a target outlining the expected increase during the lifespan of the Plan in the amount of Welsh-medium education provided in our maintained schools which provide education through the medium of both English and Welsh, make clear how we will achieve the expected increase in the amount of Welsh-medium education provided in our maintained schools which provide education through the medium of both English and Welsh and how we will work on a collaborative basis with other local authorities by exercising our functions jointly to ensure continuity in arrangements for persons accessing Welsh-medium education outside our area.

What we will do...

Retention

Support schools to ensure that learners who have attended a Welsh-medium setting in the primary phase are encouraged and expected to continue with this when transferring to subsequent key stages in the secondary phase.

Explore opportunities within our latecomers' provision to provide lessons for latecomers from both the primary and secondary sector, offer language refresher (improving/enhancing language) to latecomers and native learners at essential transition points such as the end of the Foundation Phase and at the key stage 2/3 interface and deliver catch-up programmes for pupils in Year 6/7 where language skills need to be improved to ensure a smooth transition into Welsh-medium secondary education.

Provision

Support all learners to become multilingual, able to use Welsh, English and at least one international language, and develop an openness to and curiosity about all languages and cultures of the world.

Develop and deliver a Language Plan template for all schools to support every child's linguistic progressions in Welsh across all our schools. Utilise School Improvement Advisers to support schools in formulating robust language plans for improving Welsh with a clear focus on individual schools' Estyn recommendations and the linguistic journey set out in the new curriculum.

We aspire for at least one member of staff from each Early Years/Foundation Phase English-medium primary school to attend the national sabbatical course.

Collaboration

Work with our regional partners to provide support and resources to schools, including:

- Provide individual and cluster support to improve standards of Welsh-medium education across the primary sector
- Provide professional learning and support to improve standards of teaching Welsh in primary schools. Work with school leaders and the wider system to deepen understanding of effective language pedagogy
- Sharing good practice and developing new resources to support the learning and teaching of Welsh

Objective 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

We have seen a steady growth in the percentage of learners studying for assessed qualifications in Welsh as a subject, as is illustrated in the table below. We will look to work with our schools to ensure that this growth continues throughout the life of the Plan.

Our Welsh-medium secondary schools offer assessed qualifications in all subject areas through the medium of Welsh. We will continue to work with both our Welsh-medium secondary schools to ensure that this continues to be the case.

| | | Welsh Language GCSE Entries | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Year | Y11 cohort | First lang | Second lang | Total | Percentage |
| 2017 | 2404 | 225 | 1590 | 1815 | 75.50% |
| 2018 | 2348 | 248 | 1646 | 1894 | 80.66% |
| 2019 | 2431 | 271 | 1717 | 1988 | 81.78% |
| 2020 | 2470 | 263 | 1803 | 2066 | 83.64% |
| 2021 | 2443 | 292 | 1736 | 2028 | 83.01% |
| Overall Total | 12096 | 1299 | 8492 | 9791 | 80.94% |

What we are required to do...

Objective 4 requires us to set a target outlining the expected increase during the lifespan of the Plan in the number and percentage of persons in Year 10 and over in our maintained secondary schools who are studying for qualifications and are assessed through the medium of Welsh.

We must also set out how we will achieve the expected increase during the lifespan of the plan in the number and percentage of persons in Year 10 and over in our maintained secondary schools who are studying for qualifications and are assessed through the medium of Welsh, how we will support the continued provision of Welsh-medium education for persons in Year 10 and above by working collaboratively with other schools and FEIs if necessary and how we will work with our schools and FEIs (if necessary) to co-ordinate the provision of Welsh as a subject to persons in Year 10 and above in our maintained secondary schools.

What we will do...

Pupils studying and being assessed through the medium of Welsh.

Work with our Welsh-medium schools to ensure that the high percentage of learners

currently studying and being assessed through the medium of Welsh continues.

Work in partnership with Gower College Swansea to support an increase in the Welsh-medium offer of vocational courses and priority sectors such as public services, health and childcare.

Explore opportunities offered by e-sgol, a blended learning initiative to deliver online teaching and learning opportunities using direct; real-time and interactive learning approaches, to further enhance our Welsh-medium offer.

Support and promote bilingualism and multilingualism as skills for local, regional and global career opportunities as well as linking in with the City Deal.

Monitor the growth in numbers going into Welsh-medium primary schools to ensure sufficient provision available in the secondary sector going forward.

Pupils studying Welsh as a subject.

Support our Welsh-medium secondary schools to recruit more young people to study A Level/AS Level Welsh.

Support the Welsh Government campaign to encourage more young people to consider Welsh at A Level.

Objective 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

What we are required to do...

Objective 5 requires us to set out how we will improve the Welsh language skills of persons receiving Welsh-medium education in any school we maintain in order to improve the standards of Welsh-medium education.

What we will do...

Working with partners across agencies locally in Swansea and beyond is key to the success of our strategy. The council works in partnership with community organisations that promote the Welsh language, namely Mudiad Meithrin, the Urdd, Menter Iaith, Rhagoriaith, Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity St Davids and Welsh for Children. By working with these partners and our schools we want to:

Develop and launch an annual Shwmae Awards with the aim of celebrating the contributions of individuals and groups in promoting the Welsh language and culture within schools and communities as well as the achievements of Welsh learners.

Continue to maintain and develop the Siarter Iaith in our primary schools ensuring that schools are supported along the way with appropriate resources and guidance.

Establish a programme of support for secondary schools to establish the use of the Siarter Iaith framework.

The Council will continue to work with partners such as the Urdd and Menter Iaith Abertawe as a lead partner on the social use of Welsh by our young people through a variety of activities

We will strengthen our partnership with partners to target out-of-school-hours activities through the medium of Welsh by identifying key areas through the use of Siarter Iaith data.

We will also address the targeting of extra-curricular activities for pupils in English-medium schools so that more Welsh is used.

We will work with partners in PAGA and other youth services to map and promote the provision available through the medium of Welsh.

Continue to work with the Urdd to promote its excellent range of extra-curricular activities and residential opportunities to promote the use of Welsh by our children and young people.

Establish a bank of online resources to assist schools to introduce Welsh as part of the new curriculum as well as resources to fulfil the Siarter Iaith Framework.

Make resources available to further promote the value and benefits of bilingualism in order to strengthen pupils' motivation to become confident speakers of both official languages in Wales.

As part of the schools' Language Plans identify and action a wide range of opportunities to use Welsh outside the classroom.

Objective 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh medium education for pupils with additional learning needs

What we are required to do...

Objective 6 requires us to set out how we will use the findings of our reviews under section 63 of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 to improve Welsh language provision for persons with additional learning needs and for workforce planning within the additional learning needs sector.

What we will do...

The local authority reviews the level of demand and additional learning provision (ALP) available in the medium of Welsh on an annual basis. The current model of building capacity within our mainstream schools is in line with the inclusive vision of the ALNET Act. Over the next 5 years we aim to develop the knowledge of our schools in identifying ALN and providing ALP at a local level, in the language of their choice. This will be achieved through ongoing cluster work, advice and support from specialist, Welsh speaking staff and links with regional / national bilingual resources. Pooling resources and establishing national networks will be vital in order to ensure that Welsh medium ALP can be accessed, particularly in authorities where the number of learners requiring this provision is very low.

If, in the future, the local authority considers that the availability of ALP in Welsh is not sufficient then links with wider strategic duties including those under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and this plan (Welsh in Education Strategic Plans) will be utilised to demonstrate how the local authority will aim to achieve the outcomes and targets for Welsh-medium provision for learners with ALN.

Objective 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

What we are required to do...

Objective 7 requires us to set out our commitment to identify the workforce we require to provide Welsh-medium education during the lifespan of the Plan in accordance with the Plan's targets, and to calculate any anticipated shortfall in our workforce.

We must also set out our commitment to work on a collaborative basis with other local authorities by exercising our functions jointly in planning and delivering support to improve the Welsh language skills of school teachers and school learning support workers in maintained schools in our area and to ensure that the Plan is taken into account during considerations regarding the Welsh-medium educational standards of maintained schools in our area.

What we will do...

Continue to use the Schools Workforce Census to identify the Welsh skill levels of all staff and plan accordingly to increase the language skill set of the entire workforce. We will ensure that this also includes pre-school and childcare staff.

Continue to develop the skills and confidence of the current school workforce by working with partners regionally and nationally to help deliver training programmes with a specific focus on teaching through the medium of Welsh.

Continue to work with partners on the future recruitment, development and training of the schools' workforce in order to be able to deliver this Plan and the Welsh Government's 'A million Welsh speakers by 2050' aspiration.

Target teachers and support staff in each of the county's primary English-medium settings to attend occasional bilingual/language courses. In addition we will aspire to have one member of staff from each school attending the sabbatical course during the life of the Plan.

The Council will continue to support non-subject staff to improve their knowledge and skills through regional training and support.

Our Welsh in Education Development Officers for Welsh will provide post-course support to practitioners who have participated in the Sabbatical Scheme. We will also implement a Language Champions mentoring programme where, after completing the Sabbatical Scheme, these practitioners become Language Champions and mentor other practitioners to increase their confidence to speak

Welsh, teach through the medium of Welsh, or teach Welsh as a subject in English-medium schools and share good practice.

We will ensure that schools target Welsh language skills development in school development plans in the context of improving standards to ensure that there is a strong focus on prioritizing continuing professional development which includes improving language skills.

School improvement advisers (SIAs) monitor School Development Plans and New Language Schemes to ensure leaders plan to improve the linguistic skills of the workforce. Outcomes for the workforce will also be shared with SIAs to assist with monitoring.

Increase opportunities for Welsh speakers and learners in Swansea to use Welsh in their everyday working environment.

Encourage the governors of each school to include a report on the Welsh language in their annual report to parents and hold training sessions for school governors.

Support and provide advice to governors and school leaders on staff appointments and development.

Identify teachers and support staff who have attended sabbatical courses and support them in training colleagues to develop group led reading and bilingualism in school by setting clear targets.

Summary

The vision for the development of Welsh-medium education in Swansea is clear, robust and ambitious. The work to be done is multi-faceted and multi-layered, and the next step after approval of the strategy will be to develop an action plan for the next 10 years. Clear use of data will enable us to set specific targets, which will allow us to measure the impact and success of our work.