

Improving **Education & Skills**

Why this priority is a well-being objective.

- We want all children and young people in Swansea to be ambitious, capable enterprising learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives and be creative contributors to life and work.
- We want all children and young people to attend school regularly, to be safe, to be resilient and to be healthy.
- We want all children and young people with additional learning needs to have timely and effective support to enable them to reach their full potential.
- We want to encourage and support vulnerable learners and their families to be engaged in learning.
- As corporate parents of Looked After Children, we want our Looked After Children to succeed in school and to have opportunities for further education, higher education, employment or training.
- We want our children and young people to be aware of their rights and responsibilities in Swansea and as global citizens.
- We want our children and young people to have good Welsh language skills.

The longer term challenges this well-being objective will help address.

- Ensuring young people have the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) skills to be able to take the opportunities arising from the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- Providing a school estate that is fit for the 21st century.
- Recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on children and young people's learning and health and well-being.
- Addressing the inequalities created by the link that exists between educational attainment and economic prosperity.
- Ensuring that the support for the provision of additional learning needs is stronger, less adversarial and places children and young people at the centre of decision making.
- Ensuring equal opportunities for all learners to learn Welsh and speak the language confidently and to promote the benefits of bilingualism/ multilingualism.

The steps we will take to meet this well-being objective.

- **Pupil attendance and performance** - Support and challenge schools to improve attendance and pupil performance, with a focus on improving literacy (in English and Welsh), numeracy and digital competence for all children of all ages, including children who are looked after (LAC), educated other than at school (EOTAS) or have additional learning needs (ALN).
- **Impact from Covid-19** - Support pupils, families and schools to maintain continuity of learning and well-being during the Covid-19 response and recovery.
- **Welsh language** - Increase the number of children taught through the medium of Welsh and promote the use of Welsh in schools and socially through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- **Pupil voice** - Continue to involve children and young people in their education and community through Schools Councils and engagement events.
- **Pupil rights and responsibilities** - As part of our commitment to the UNCRC, support schools to design a curriculum that will help its learners understand and exercise their responsibilities and rights; to respect the needs and rights of others; and show their commitment to the sustainability of the planet.
- **Poverty and disadvantage** - Ensure our vulnerable children are not disadvantaged by poverty or other factors that negatively affect their well-being and limits or restricts them in achieving and attaining high standards in education.
- **Schools estate** - Transform the schools' estate to meet demand and respond to the developments set out within the local development plan (LDP) whilst ensuring community benefits from contracts.
- **School buildings** - We will, by using our school building and maintenance programme, reduce our carbon footprint.
- **STEM** - Align our education system and continue to collaborate with partners ensuring we create the right people with the right skills to supply the new economies and meet the challenge of the Swansea Bay City Deal.
- **Apprenticeships** - Raise vocational aspirations and skill levels in the workplace, contributing to the development of ambitious, skilled young people and adults by providing high-quality apprenticeships.
- **Lifelong learning** - Develop independent learning skills for lifelong learning to reflect the changing nature of work and to support well-being, creativity and reduce social isolation.

The contribution this Well-being Objective makes to the national goals.

A prosperous Wales	A Resilient Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of more cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A healthier Wales	A globally responsible Wales
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How we will maximise our contribution to the national goals through the way in which we work.

- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* – Supporting schools to design engaging curriculums so that pupils improve their skills and qualifications that they need to go on into further and higher education, training or employment. Early support for learners and their families to overcome barriers to good attendance. Collaboration with families who choose to electively home educate.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* – Ensuring the school curriculum in Swansea provides pupils with the skills and qualifications for the future and contributes to the success of the Swansea Bay City Deal in raising prosperity.
- *Working in partnership with others* – Collaborate with local authorities through the regional arrangements to support school improvement services. Improved collaboration and information sharing with agencies to ensure early identification and support to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* – Creating synergy between national and local objectives and economic development.
- *Involving people* – Involving learners in their education through a range of engagement mechanisms in order to demonstrate we value these key stakeholders. Ensure the views of families and the wider community are considered.

How we will measure progress³.

- Attendance at school.
- Reduced exclusions from schools.
- Achievement at the end of Key Stage 4, including those receiving free school meals, children looked after by the Council, pupils educated other than at school.
- Enrolment and attainment in Mathematics and Science subjects at the end of key stage 4.
- Success of individual and personal plans for most vulnerable children.

³ Provisional pending review and data development.

- Levels of enrolment and attainment of Welsh at Key Stage 4.
- Timeliness in completing statutory Individual Development Plans for learners with additional learning needs.
- Young people known to be NEET at 16 years of age.
- Enrolment and outcomes of apprenticeships in the Council and the wider community.
- Engagement with training weeks secured for the economically inactive or unemployed through community benefit clauses in contracts.
- Number of learners in Year 1 receiving their education in a Welsh-medium primary school.

The contribution this well-being objective makes to the Public Service Board Well-being Objectives.

Children have the best start in life to be the best they can be	People live well and age well	Working with nature	Strong communities
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