

ITEM

MEETING	COUNCIL'S LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE	16 April 2013
TITLE	Report on pupils' progress at the Language Centres
PURPOSE	To present information
RECOMMENDATION	To accept the report
AUTHOR	Dewi R Jones, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER	Clr Sian Gwenllian

BACKGROUND

The aim of the Language Centres is to provide an intensive course in the Welsh Language for incomers to enable them to assimilate with the bilingual community and full participate in bilingual educational experiences. This provision lies at the core of assisting primary and secondary schools to implement the Language Policy.

A good link exists between the schools and centres, and their success is evident when the pupils return to their schools and communities with a firm foundation in the Welsh language, following a term of intensive learning (half a term at the Secondary Centre).

There are now four primary centres and one secondary centre, which is unique in Wales. The primary centres are located in Caernarfon, Dolgellau, Llangybi and Penrhyndeudraeth, and the secondary centre in Porthmadog.

The situation in terms of number of pupils and provision is monitored regularly, with the Adviser for Welsh (Welsh in Education Officer from April 2013) visiting and conducting discussions and regular formal meetings.

Between 2005 and the autumn of 2013, a total of **1056** primary pupils and **358** secondary pupils have benefited from attending the language centres.

In order to ensure appropriate follow-up at the schools, the teachers at the centres will offer after-care for every pupil when they return to their schools, as well as providing teachers with guidance on appropriate follow-up for pupils.

During the autumn term 2009, the after-care strategy that existed at Primary Centres was developed further, and this was introduced for primary school head teachers and is now in operation since the spring term 2010.

A second teacher (permanent post) was appointed to the Secondary Language Centre in September 2012, further developing the implementation of the after-care programmes for pupils, offering guidance for the secondary schools as necessary. This element lies at the core of the work's success.

PRIMARY LANGUAGE CENTRES

Noted below is information on the percentage of pupils following Welsh as a first language after they transfer to the secondary sector (2010 - 2012), which is very encouraging.

Cefn Coch Language Centre

Year	Total	First Language	Second Language	Percentage following First Language
'12	24	22	2	91%
'11	25	25	0	100%
'10	26	19	7	73%

Llangybi Language Centre

Year	Total	First Language	Second Language	Percentage following First Language
'12	13	12	1	92%
'11	8	8	0	100%
'10	19	18	1	94%

Dolgellau Language Centre

Year	Total	First Language	Second Language	Percentage following First Language
'12	5	4	1	80%
'11	2	1	1	50%
'10	9	4	5	44%

Maesincla Language Centre

(Not including Ysgol Friars data, i.e. the children who do not attend Ysgol Friars)

Year	Total	First Language	Second Language	Percentage following First Language
'12	4	4	0	100%
'11	6	6	0	100%
'10	6	6	0	100%

Maesincla Language Centre

(Including Ysgol Friars data, i.e. the children who attend Ysgol Friars)

Year	Total	First Language	Second Language	Percentage following First Language
'12	13	6	7	46%

'11	18	6	12	33%
'10	30	6	24	20%

SECONDARY LANGUAGE CENTRE

Noted below is information on the results of former Secondary Language Centre pupils who have sat exams (data fund since 2007):

- Welsh First Language (GCSE)
- Welsh Second Language (GCSE)
- Welsh First Language (Admission Level)
- Welsh Second Language (Admission Level)

Welsh First Language (GCSE)

Number - 20

A*	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	0	1	6	6	5	2

Welsh Second Language (GCSE)

Number - 56

A*	A	B	C	D	E	F
12	12	7	10	11	3	1

Welsh First Language (Admission Level)

Number - 4

Grade 1	Grade 2
1	3

Welsh Second Language (Admission Level)

Number - 1

Grade 3
1

The progress of pupils who have attended the language centre is very encouraging, and it is pleasing to note that a number of pupils have 'crossed the bridge', and are following the study programme for Welsh as a first language.

The provision offered is effective and of a very high quality. The most significant success is the fact that pupils return to their schools with the ability to communicate effectively in their second language, commit themselves to their educational programmes and integrate successfully with the school community. It is worth noting that the progress of some individual pupils is excellent.

The excellent provision offered by the Primary and Secondary Language Centres is acknowledged and appreciated.

In a recent Authority inspection, Estyn noted that the work of promoting the Welsh language leads the sector, and that the contribution of the Language Centres is an integral part of this success.

RECOMMENDATION

The Language Committee is asked to accept the information.