

DEFINING SCHOOLS ACCORDING TO WELSH-MEDIUM PROVISION: CATEGORIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL LANGUAGE POLICY

Gwynedd County Council's language policy was developed in 1996.

It states that the aim of the Language Policy across all the county's primary schools is to develop the ability of all pupils to be confident in both languages by the end of Key Stage (KS) 2. Welsh is the official assessment language in the school at the end of the Foundation Phase. In KS2, the aim is to continue to develop the pupils' grasp of Welsh giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages.

Secondary schools need to build upon the foundations set in primary by ensuring that each pupil continues to develop skills in Welsh and English.

The majority of secondary schools work towards a linguistic balance as recommended in the Language Policy, some are closer than others.

DEFINITIONS WELSH GOVERNMENT (OCTOBER 2007)

Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision (October 2007), a document issued by the Welsh Government, outlines the descriptions and categories of schools according to how much Welsh is used as the medium of instruction and in the normal business of the school. The categories are used in order to gather information regarding the national provision and also locally from education authorities and schools in order to give information to parents about what type of schools are available in various localities. The document states that the information should assist local and national government to assess if the provision meets with local demand. The Government document states as follows: *'Although the new definitions have no basis in legislation they have been devised to provide better information for parents and for local and national government on the extent to which pupils are learning through the medium of Welsh.'* Regulations will be needed to make this compulsory.

The following categories are in the secondary sector:

- Welsh-Medium Secondary School
- Bilingual Secondary School (this category has 4 sub-divisions).
- Predominantly English medium secondary school with significant use of Welsh
- Predominantly English medium Secondary School

The county does not define secondary schools according to language categories as outlined above. Yet again, 'My Local School', a very popular website developed by the Welsh Government, to make it easier for parents and everyone else interested to see data about schools, include a section on the Categorisation of Schools in Gwynedd. This is based on the document *Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision (October 2007)*.

'My Local School' includes the following information about the categories of secondary schools in the county, and as you can see, two categories are relevant to Gwynedd Secondary Schools namely:

Bilingual Secondary School

- **Category 2A** - At least 80% of subjects apart from Welsh and English are taught only through the medium of Welsh to all pupils. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or in both languages.
- **Language of the School** - The day to day language or languages of the school will be determined by its linguistic context. Both languages are used to communicate with pupils and for the school's administration. A high priority is given to creating a Welsh ethos. The school communicates with parents in both languages.

Predominantly English medium secondary school with significant use of Welsh

- **Curriculum** - Both languages are used in teaching with 20 - 49% of subjects taught through the medium of Welsh. All subjects would normally also be taught through the medium of English.
- **Language of the School** - The day to day language or languages of the school will be determined by its linguistic context. Both languages are used to communicate with pupils and for the school's administration. A high priority is given to creating a Welsh ethos. The school communicates with parents either in both languages or in English.

SCHOOL	DEFINING THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY
Ysgol Ardudwy	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Botwnnog	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Brynrefail	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Eifionydd	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Friars	Predominantly English medium secondary school with significant use of Welsh
Ysgol Glan y Môr	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Syr Hugh Owen	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Tryfan	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol Tywyn	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol y Berwyn	Bilingual (Category A)
Ysgol y Gader	Bilingual (Category A)

Ysgol y Moelwyn	Bilingual (Category A)
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