

A small crew of elected members of the Council have decided to conduct a scrutiny inquiry to the implementation of the language policy in schools in Gwynedd.

The inquiry is focused on 3 particular catchment areas, namely Bangor, Botwnnog and Ardudwy, looking at the primary and secondary sector.

The investigation will:

- i. elaborate on the implementation of the Authority’s Language Policy at primary and secondary schools in specific catchment areas
- ii. see how the key elements of the policy are applied in the policies of the different schools and in particular within the School Development Plan.
- iii. see how the requirements of the “*Strategic Plan on Welsh in Education*” are being actioned
- iv. see how the guidance and requirements of the “*Gwynedd Primary Schools Welsh Language Charter*” are being actioned

The members have conducted interviews with the headteachers of the primary and secondary schools of the 3 catchment areas, and the staff of the language centres and language co-ordinators of the catchment areas.

Mae’r aelodau wedi cynnal cyfweiliadau gyda phenaethiaid cynradd ac uwchradd y 3 dalgylch, a staff y Canolfannau Iaith a Chyd-gysylltwyr iaith dalgylchol.

Following comments from some of the headteachers of the schools regarding the standard of Welsh of new teachers, it was decided to make arrangements for the questioning of Bangor University lecturers.

The elected members want to understand the content of the modules and their suitability for prospective teachers, taking into account Gwynedd’s language policy.

1. What are the entry requirements as regards the candidates’ standard of Welsh on the courses that lead to qualified teacher status and the postgraduate certificate in education?
2. Is the entry requirements in terms of the Welsh language at the same level as the English language?
3. Explain to us what the provision is and how does it align and complement Gwynedd’s language policy.
4. Who is responsible for informing prospective teachers of the expected linguistic behaviour in Gwynedd schools?
5. Is support available for students to improve their skills e.g. language refresher courses?

6. What in your opinion, are the factors responsible for some of the headteachers' comments about the language quality of new teachers?
7. Are there specific modules as part of the courses for prospective teachers relating to:
  - i.) promoting informal use of the Welsh language
  - ii.) the benefits of bilingualism
  - iii.) how children acquire language