

Proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill

Consultation response form

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Responses should be returned by 16 June 2023 to:

Cymraeg 2050 Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

email: Cymraeg2050@gov.wales



**Cyngor Cymru ar Gyfer
Dysgu yn yr Awyr Agored**

**Wales Council for
Outdoor Learning**

[Wales Council for Outdoor Learning](http://www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org/) acts as a voice for the outdoor learning and environmental education sector bringing together organisations that support and deliver high quality teaching and learning in the outdoor environment.

The partnership shares good practice and influences policy development, highlighting the many benefits of outdoor learning and its contribution to the development of ethical and informed citizens of future generations.

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning helps to raise the profile of Out of Classroom Learning aiming to foster greater understanding and appreciation of its value and its vital contribution to education for sustainable development and global citizenship.

More information can be found at: www.walescouncilforoutdoorlearning.org/

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill to ensure the role of outdoor learning and

the natural environment in improving physical activity, mental health and well-being, and attainment is highlighted throughout the teaching and learning system.

The Council recognises outdoor learning as covering a wide range of activity from use of our school grounds, local parks, woodlands and beaches, field studies, environmental education, recognised accredited approaches to teaching like forest school and coastal school, residential stays and adventure education. The partners provide expertise in areas ranging from Initial Teacher Education, professional learning and curriculum support, use of school grounds for play and learning, and for well-being and physical health improvements, supporting awards, land ownership, residential and overnight expeditions, national guidance and health and safety.

The Network can provide advice and guidance on quality assured outdoor teaching and learning and provide training and support for teachers and education professionals.

Please do contact us for further clarification or information. We have chosen to provide our response in Question 36.

Questions from the document ‘Proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill’

Question 1 – Do you agree that a provision on the national target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050 should be included in a Bill?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 2 – Do you think there should be a clear role for local authorities to work towards the outcome that’s synonymous to level B2 by 2050? If so, what should that role be?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 3 – Do you think there should be a clear role for Welsh Ministers to work towards the outcome that’s synonymous to level B2 by 2050? If so, what should that role be?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 4 – Do you agree with the proposal that the Welsh Ministers should have a duty to publish the Welsh language skills continuum?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 5 – Do you agree that a statutory system should be created for categorising maintained schools according to language medium?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 6 – Do you agree that a duty should be placed on the Welsh Ministers to define the category descriptions in regulations?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 7 – What are your views about including a minimum amount of Welsh language provision? What are your views on the effects of setting a minimum amount of provision on schools, learners and staff? Do you foresee any other effects?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 8 – What is your opinion about the proposals in paragraphs 51 to 56 in relation to placing schools in a language category, and giving the local authority an approval role in the process?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 9 – Do you agree with the principle that all schools should increase their Welsh language provision over time?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 10 – What are your views on the proposals in paragraphs 57 to 60 on the process of increasing Welsh language provision in schools?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 11 – Do you agree with the proposals in paragraphs 62 to 64 about monitoring school progress?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 12 – What are your thoughts on how a local authority should decide whether a new school is to be a Welsh-medium school?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 13 – Do you agree with the proposal in this section about placing a duty on the Welsh Ministers to produce a statutory National Plan for the acquisition and learning of the Welsh language (providing direction for statutory local implementation plans)?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 14 – Do you agree with the proposals in paragraphs 73 and 74 to set national targets for the education workforce and to include them in the National Plan?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 15 – Do you agree that the outcomes set out in paragraph 82 continue to provide a clear focus for both national and local planning?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 16 – Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a duty for local authorities to review their Welsh in Education Implementation Plan (WEIP) after 5 years to align with the National Plan's 5-year progress report?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 17 – Do you agree with the principle that Welsh in education targets should be imposed on local authorities by the Welsh Ministers?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 18 – Do you agree with the proposal for the Welsh Ministers to commission an external review of the content of a draft Welsh in Education Implementation Plan (WEIP) when appropriate?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 19 – Do you agree with the proposals to impose duties on local authorities in planning their workforce?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 20 – Do you agree with the proposals in paragraphs 100 to 102 about publishing reports on the implementation of the Welsh in Education Implementation Plans (WEIPs), and the progress made against National Plan targets?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 21 – Do you agree with the proposal to give Estyn a role to conduct a rapid review and provide recommendations in situations where it appears there is a risk that an authority will not meet its targets?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 22 – Do you have any other suggestions as to how to ensure that local authorities take reasonable steps to implement their Welsh in Education Implementation Plans (WEIPs)?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 23 – Do you think a duty should be placed on local authorities to promote Welsh-medium education among parents and carers?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 24 – What support should the Welsh Ministers offer in terms of promoting Welsh-medium education?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

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Question 25 – Do you think a duty should be placed on local authorities to promote late immersion provision among parents, carers and learners?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 26 – Do you think a duty should be placed on local authorities to provide late immersion for learners?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 27 – Do you agree with the principle that specialist support for lifelong Welsh language learning, including schools, should be centralised within a single body?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 28 – Do you agree that the role of the National Centre for Learning Welsh should be expanded to undertake the role or is there another model that should be considered?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 29 – Do you agree with the principle that sufficient Welsh language learning provision should be guaranteed, and that suitable structures should be in place to support learners of all ages?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Questions from the ‘Outline of costs and impacts that will form the basis of a Regulatory Impact Assessment for a Welsh Language Education Bill’ document

Question 30 – Do you agree with our interpretation of the groups and bodies affected by the changes? Are there any other groups or bodies that fall within the scope of the changes apart from those identified in the outline of costs and impacts that will form the basis of a Regulatory Impact Assessment for a Welsh Language Education Bill?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 31 – Apart from the groups and bodies identified in the outline of costs and impacts that will form the basis of a Regulatory Impact Assessment for a Welsh Language Education Bill, which groups or bodies would have to pick up the costs?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 32 – What other impacts (both financial and non-financial) are there relating to the proposed legislation that are not outlined in the outline of costs and impacts that will form the basis of a Regulatory Impact Assessment for a Welsh Language Education Bill?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Question 33 – Are there any other comments on the outline of costs and impacts that will form the basis of a Regulatory Impact Assessment for a Welsh Language Education Bill?

Supporting comments

None – please see question 36

Mandatory questions

Question 34 – We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals in the White Paper would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Supporting comments

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would expect any changes to be in line with the Welsh Language Standards under Section 47 of the Measure to which many of the member organisations adhere.

The proposal will increase opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and increase the number of the potential future Education Sector workforce to deliver Welsh medium education across the whole of Wales.

Question 35 – Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Supporting comments

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would expect any changes to be in line with the Welsh Language Standards under Section 47 of the Measure to which many of the member organisations adhere.

Question 36 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related

issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning would like to raise the following points:

Language related to the natural environment and the processes within that must be included in Welsh language teaching. We already see a shortage of Welsh speakers within the environmental sector, for example, those able to communicate environmental messages with stakeholders and complete surveys and data collection through the medium of Welsh. We hope this legislation will help address this.

We have seen the loss of environmental language, for example, some simple plant and animal names from both Welsh and English dictionaries. Geirau Diflanedig (Mererid Hopwood)/ [‘the Lost Words’](#) by Robert MacFarlane illustrated this point back in 2019. With the current declared climate and nature emergencies it is essential that our environmental language is nurtured and actively used through the medium of Welsh.

Associated technical, sustainability/carbon literacy linked language also needs to be highlighted both in terms of the greening current job roles and industries and in future ‘green’ jobs.

The use of the outdoors/natural environment cannot be underestimated as a conducive space to learn in. Work by the Urdd and Natural Resources Wales with Flintshire Welsh Language Advisory Service has seen confidence grow amongst learners. *“Using the outdoors provides an abundance of learning opportunities for our children to use their language skills while having fun in the fresh air. Flintshire has a strong commitment to the Welsh language, and we are supporting learners to improve their Welsh language skills and to give them the confidence to use the language in their daily lives..... Following this training feedback received from teachers and learners evidenced that using Cymraeg in the outdoors is highly effective as learners embraced the fun-filled activities without realising they were also learning and developing their Welsh language.”*

Once the target is written into law, all sectors supporting the education system will be required to provide activities through the medium of Welsh. In some instances, the outdoor sector and providers of outdoor learning will need time and support to be able to build their Welsh language capacity. Many high quality bi-lingual resources already exist which help promote the language, but delivery may be a challenge. What systems will be in place to support this?

It should be noted that the targets within this Bill will have a knock-on effect on ITE provision, the scheme for which has only recently been signed off by Jeremy Miles. Outdoor learning is now a central pedagogy within Curriculum for Wales which will flow through ITE so appropriate opportunities to develop and support to use language, needs to be built into future courses.

Wales Council for Outdoor Learning members would be happy to support any resource development and/or development of training required within this area. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Chair: Stephanie.Price@DofE.org

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

