

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Proposal to change the language medium status of Penderyn Community Primary School, amend the catchment area of Penderyn Community Primary School and increase the pupil capacity of Hirwaun Primary School

This assessment is prepared in accordance with guidance contained within the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.

As part of our proposals in respect of the above, we are planning to undertake some reorganisation of Welsh Medium Primary education provision in this area of Rhondda Cynon Taf, which will increase Welsh Medium pupil capacity.

Language category of school

We are proposing that Penderyn Community Primary School, which is currently a dual language school, becomes a wholly Welsh medium school which will be able to offer all of its available capacity of 231 pupils (plus nursery) to pupils requiring a Welsh medium education. It is proposed that pupils attending the English medium stream of Penderyn Community Primary School would (subject to parental preference), transfer to Hirwaun Primary School which is to be rebuilt with an extended capacity, should these proposals proceed. The catchment area of the new Hirwaun Primary School will extend to incorporate the current catchment area of the English medium stream of Penderyn Community Primary School.

Penderyn Community Primary School is currently organised into two language streams and parents choose for their children to study most of their lessons either through the medium of Welsh or through the medium of English. In recent years the number of pupils (including nursery) in the Welsh language stream has increased to 179, whilst numbers have fallen to just 54 in the English stream. There are 9 classes in the school, 6 of which are taught in Welsh and 3 which are taught in English. *(Figures from January 2018 PLASC).*

We are also proposing to amend the catchment area of Penderyn Community Primary School to encompass the communities of Trenant and Penywaun (which are currently in the catchment area of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar). These adjustments are being made to the catchment area to match the demand for Welsh medium places with the available supply across the Welsh medium primary school sector in this part of the County Borough and will increase the number of Welsh medium school places available in this part of the County Borough. Additional demand for places is also being driven by housing development in this part of the County Borough. Admissions to the schools will be administered by the local authority.

Performance standards

The following tables set out the performance of the Welsh (W) and English (E) streams of Penderyn Community Primary School for the key measures of educational performance over the past three years and compare the school to similar schools across Wales based on the numbers of pupils in receipt of free school meals:

Foundation Phase Outcomes						
	2015 %		2016 %		2017 %	
Subjects	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)
Foundation Phase Indicator	92 (2)	100 (1)	95.2 (1)	90 (3)	96.4 (1)	100 (1)
Personal and social development wellbeing and cultural diversity	100 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	90 (4)	100 (1)	100 (1)
Language literacy and communication skills English/Welsh	96 (2)	100 (1)	95.2 (2)	90 (3)	96.4 (2)	100 (1)
Mathematical development	96 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	90 (3)	100 (1)	100 (1)

Key Stage Two Outcomes						
	2015 %		2016 %		2017 %	
Subjects	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)	Penderyn Primary (W)	Penderyn Primary (E)
English	88.2 (3)	100 (1)	94.4 (2)	100 (1)	96.8 (2)	88.9 (4)
Welsh 1st	88.2 (3)	N/A	94.2 (2)	N/A	95.5 (2)	N/A
Maths	88.2 (3)	100 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	96.8 (2)	88.9 (4)
Science	88.2 (3)	100 (1)	100 (1)	100 (1)	96.8 (3)	88.9 (4)
Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	88.2 (3)	100 (1)	94.2 (2)	100 (1)	96.8 (2)	88.9 (4)

The figures in brackets in the tables above, compare the schools to similar schools across Wales based on free school meals. The performance is compared using benchmarked quartiles, with 1 being the highest and 4 the lowest.

Welsh medium growth

If these proposals are agreed Penderyn Community Primary School will become a wholly Welsh medium school and will be able to offer all of its available capacity to pupils requiring a Welsh medium education. The school will be able to offer Welsh medium provision to 231 pupils (plus nursery), with an admission number of 33 pupils per year group. This will increase the number of Welsh medium school places available in this part of the County Borough. Admissions to the school will be administered by the local authority.

Pupils living in Hirwaun who require Welsh medium education will still attend Penderyn Community Primary School (subject to parental preference). The Welsh medium catchment

area of Penderyn Community Primary School will also be extended to encompass the communities of Trenant and Penywaun (which are currently in the catchment area of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar). These adjustments are being made to the catchment area to match the demand for Welsh medium places with the available supply across the Welsh medium primary school sector in this part of the County Borough. Additional demand for places is also being driven by housing development in this part of the County Borough.

Other proposals within this area of the County Borough seek to further ensure the demand for Welsh medium places is matched with the available supply and will increase the number of Welsh medium school places available in this part of the County Borough, namely:-

- The proposed increase in capacity of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar by 60 pupil places by the construction of a new classroom extension block and improvements to parking and external play facilities;
- The proposed increase in capacity of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun by 162 pupil places by the construction of a new classroom extension block and a separate sports hall containing classrooms for the PE curriculum.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020

The change in language medium status to totally Welsh medium and the growth of Welsh medium places at Penderyn Community Primary School supports the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050: Welsh Language Strategy of one million Welsh speakers by 2050 and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCT's) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020.

The Council's WESP document indicates how the local authority intends to promote the teaching of the Welsh Language, how it intends working towards increasing the number of children taught through the medium of Welsh and how it can assist achieving the Welsh Government's target of having one million people in Wales speaking Welsh by 2050. The WESP for RCT can be viewed and downloaded from the Council website via <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/WelshinEducationStrategicPlan201720.pdf>.

Included among the list of actions and outcomes that the Council will undertake to help achieve the targets set out in the WESP by increasing the number of seven year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh are the following:

- New and improved school buildings with appropriate capacity levels to fully meet forecasted demand for Welsh medium provision in their catchment areas;
- Consideration of making dual language Primary schools into full Welsh medium schools

This proposal, to change Penderyn Community Primary School from a dual language school to a totally Welsh medium school and in doing so to also increase the number of Welsh medium primary school places will work towards the achievement of these targets in this part of the County Borough.

Further advantages

A completely Welsh medium primary school at Penderyn could also:

- Provide total immersion in the Welsh language for all pupils at the school;
- Enable total immersion in the Welsh language to be offered to a larger number of pupils from the youngest possible age;
- Offer more opportunities for the teaching and support staff which could be provided by a larger wholly Welsh medium school;
- Create a critical mass of Welsh-medium learners;
- Enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at secondary level;
- Provide more opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh;
- Improve recruitment and retention of staff.

Before and after school activities

At present Penderyn Community Primary School offers a breakfast club each morning before school. After school activities comprise - an Urdd after school club two evenings per week, plus a sports club. These activities will be unaffected by these proposals.

These proposals could provide Penderyn Community Primary School with the possibility of enhancing and extending their extra-curricular provision, particularly through the medium of Welsh.