



Wrexham County Borough Council

Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Supporting Evidence

Prepared in accordance with Welsh Language Standards 88-92

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment underpins the Council's proposal to increase the pupil capacity at St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, Brymbo from 154 to 210 with the potential to increase further to 315 if required as a result of future housing developments

November 2023

Introduction

Wrexham County Borough Council's School Organisation Framework (2017-2025) sets out the Council's vision and strategic direction for developments in education provision over a 10 year period.

At Executive Board on 10th October 2023, Wrexham County Borough Council sought approval to carry out a formal consultation with stakeholders on a proposal to increase capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo from September 2025. The proposal addresses the need to provide an increased number of school places in the Brymbo area due to a proposed large housing development.

The consultation was due to run from 23rd October 2023 to 4th December 2023. In light of guidance and training from the Welsh Language Commissioner, we have reviewed the Welsh Language Impact Assessment that underpins the consultation. We have extended the consultation deadline from 4th December 2023 to 12th January 2024 to allow sufficient time for stakeholders to respond.

The School Organisation Code (2018) requires Local Authorities to carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment to give due consideration to the effects of proposals on the Welsh Language.

This document assesses the impact that the proposal may have on the Welsh Language and forms part of a number of impact assessments including: the Community, Transport, the Wellbeing of Future Generations and Equality. The assessment pulls together a range of relevant Welsh language data sources, statistics, information from Welsh Government and existing Council and Welsh Government policies and legislation. These must be considered in context and alongside mitigating factors as the Council determines whether to proceed with the outlined proposal.

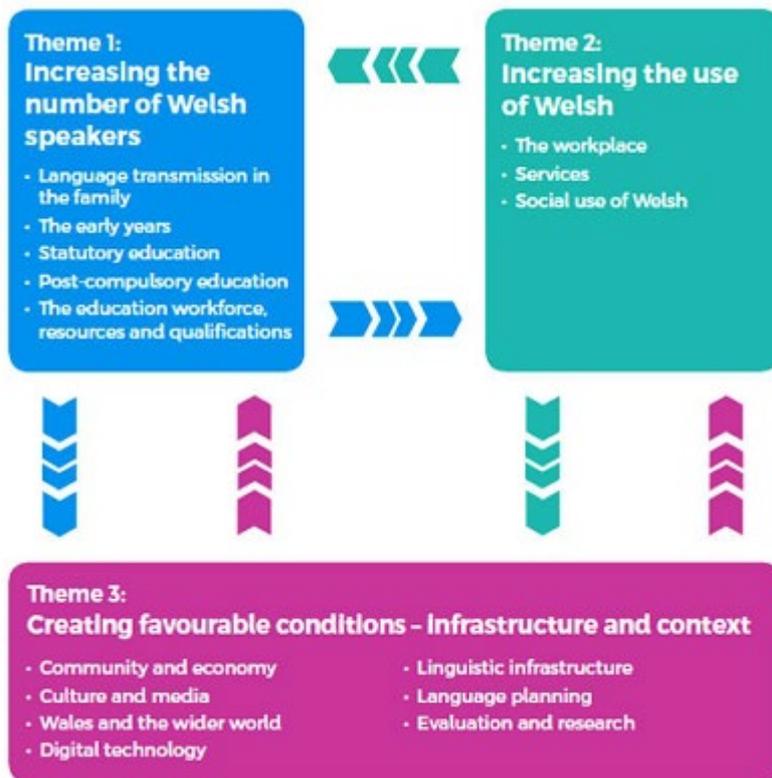
Cymraeg 2050 Strategy

Cymraeg 2050 is the Welsh Government's strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language. It sets out a long-term approach to achieving a target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050. The aim of the strategy is to reach a position where the Welsh language is an integral part of all aspects of everyday life. Wrexham Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2022-2031) (WESP) and Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2022-2027) directly support the Welsh Government's vision and will become the cornerstone of the Council's contribution towards meeting the target outlined in the Welsh Government's strategy.

Wrexham's Council Plan (2020-2023) includes the Welsh Language and Culture as a strategic planning principle. It recognises that Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English, and services and information should be equally available in both. The Council's internal business language is English, but all employees are supported and encouraged to develop their Welsh language skills. Services and information that the Council provides are available bilingually. The Council's 'Ensuring a Modern and Resilient Council' objective also reiterates our commitment to the Welsh Language Standards and ensures that we continue to adhere to its requirements.

This assessment includes the relevant requirements of a Welsh Language Assessment and considers the three main themes outlined in Cymraeg 2050: A Million

Welsh Speakers. Some of the standard questions within the Welsh language assessment and two of the three themes of Cymraeg 2050 may not be directly relevant to this proposal due to the language medium and provision medium (Church in Wales School) of the school in question, but as there is a possibility that Welsh-medium schools in the area may be affected by the proposal, they will be considered in full.



As can be seen from the flow chart above, all three themes outlined in Cymraeg 2050 have the possibility of being relevant, as the proposal concerns an English-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided school and which could potentially affect Welsh-medium schools in Wrexham. As a result, all schools that could be reasonably affected will be considered when referring to the impacts and mitigating factors associated with this proposal.

The authority is also committed to raising the profile of the Welsh language and increasing participation in Welsh medium education in Wrexham. The proposal aligns with a number of objectives contained in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), including:

- Increasing the number of pupils who receive their education through the medium of Welsh;
- Enabling children and young people to be able to use Welsh as a language for living;
- Enabling children and young people to develop confidence in bilingualism;
- Providing information and understanding of the advantages of being bilingual.
- Ensuring ALN provision through the medium of Welsh is equivalent to the provision available through the medium of English.
- Upskilling staff to be proficient in using Welsh within education settings.

The Proposal

The proposal is to increase capacity at St Mary's CIW VA School, Brymbo from 154 to 210. This will create an additional 56 faith provision primary school places for pupils. Admissions will be phased from September 2025 for Nursery and Reception pupils.

Why is the Council proposing the changes?

The present St Mary's CIW VA School is a converted secondary school dating back to the 1940s. It is situated in the hilly, rural village of Brymbo on the outskirts of the City of Wrexham. The rationale for this project, as well as to increase capacity, is to create an improved, high quality learning environment on a larger site to help meet the predicted future demand for school places in the area once the proposed housing development has been completed.

The selection of the new school site allows the Council and the Diocese to design a school with flexibility of space usage in mind as well as build in future flexibility to enable spaces to be changed. It would also alleviate the need to use temporary accommodation as demand increases and avoids possible overcrowding at alternative sites.

The new building will be designed with input from the school and the Diocese to ensure that it remains in keeping with the school's ethos and supports the school's vision for the delivery of the modern curriculum. If the status-quo was to be maintained, it is likely that the school would not be able to accommodate the future predicted demand for school places in the Brymbo area.

The Consultation Process

The School Organisation Code 2018, paragraph. 1.4 states that "*Where proposals affect schools where Welsh is a medium of instruction (for subjects other than Welsh) for some or all of the time, local authorities should carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.*" As there is the possibility that this could affect Welsh-medium schools in the area, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment must be produced.

Paragraph 3.4 in the School Organisation Code 2018 states:

WESP

- *The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.* This information is contained in the Impacts and Mitigations section.
- *How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision. In case of the latter, set out why provision will be reduced.* This information is contained in the Impacts and Mitigations section.

The consultation document invites views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal. As part of the consultation process the Council will undertake an online survey to seek views on the proposal, and to gather information on how consultees feel the proposal may impact on the Welsh language and its further development in the area. The views of children and young people are key to the way education is delivered within our Local Authority.

It is important that when bringing forward proposals, suitable arrangements are made to consult with pupils and, where possible, those pupils likely to attend the school. The Council firmly believe that the pupils of all the schools affected should be given the opportunity to make their views known about this proposal. A children and young people version of the consultation document is made available and a visit undertaken to meet with the School Council at St. Mary's, Brymbo.

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires the Council to consult on its proposal and to publish a consultation report summarising any issues raised by consultees, the Council's response to those issues and Estyn's view of the overall merit of the proposal.

The proposal and the consultation report will be considered by Elected Members of the Council and should it be agreed to proceed with the plans consulted upon, then the next stage of the process will be to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposal. This would be published for a period of 28 days during which written objections may be submitted.

Where objections are received, an objection report will be published summarising the objections and the Council's response to those objections. Elected Members of the Council will consider the proposal in light of objections received when taking a decision as to whether or not the proposal is to be implemented.

The list of consultees includes Welsh language partner organisations, including the Welsh in Education Forum and the local authority consulting with all of its schools including Welsh-medium schools. The Welsh Language Commissioner will also be consulted.

Welsh language impact assessments must consider a range of factors including links to legislation and details of supporting evidence and mitigating factors. This assessment brings together supporting evidence from a number of sources of information, from relevant Council policies and strategies to national regulations and Census data, and information from Welsh Government in order to support Wrexham County Borough Council as it decides on the proposals regarding St Mary's Church in Wales, Voluntary Aided School, Brymbo.

By considering the above information on wider Welsh language matters, Wrexham County Borough Council will be able to evidence conscience consideration in the decision-making process. Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 requires Local Authorities to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Wrexham's WESP (2022-2031) details the plan to support and further develop Welsh language education in schools.

Welsh-Medium Education Provision in Wrexham

There are currently eight Welsh-medium primary schools, one dual-stream primary school and one 11-18 secondary school which includes a sixth form provision, that provide Welsh-medium education within Wrexham City.

A high percentage of pupils currently attending Welsh medium schools in Wrexham come from predominantly English speaking homes. Bilingualism is introduced at the earliest opportunity and the Local Authority is committed to ensuring that Welsh-medium education will be maintained and developed as the child/young person progresses.

As outlined in the Council’s WESP, “the further development and expansion of Welsh medium education remains our vision and we recognise the importance of creating opportunities for all Wrexham pupils to become bilingual so that they emerge from our education system, proud of their identify and confident in using both languages” (WESP, page 5). Over recent years, the Council has strived to expand Welsh medium education across the borough in order to ensure that there are enough places for the pupils of Wrexham to access Welsh medium education should they wish to do so.

Pupil Projections and Surplus Places in Welsh-Medium Schools

The table below shows the pupil projections and the number of surplus places available in Welsh-medium primary schools across the county borough over the next five years. The schools are listed in distance order away from the current St Mary’s CIW VA School, Brymbo site.

Name of School	Distance from St. Mary’s CIW VA School (Miles)
Ysgol Bro Alun CP	2.285
Ysgol Bryn Tabor	2.563
Ysgol Plas Coch CP	2.994
Ysgol Bodhyfryd	4.719
Ysgol ID Hooson	6.298
Ysgol Min Y Ddol	8.945
Ysgol Cynddelw	15.534
Ysgol Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog	20.501

Ysgol Bro Alun CP

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	254	61
2024/2025	262	53
2025/2026	261	54
2026/2027	257	58
2027/2028	265	50

Ysgol Bryn Tabor

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	206	109
2024/2025	189	126
2025/2026	193	122
2026/2027	182	133
2027/2028	177	138

Ysgol Plas Coch

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	259	56
2024/2025	258	57
2025/2026	259	56
2026/2027	260	55
2027/2028	269	46

Ysgol Bodhyfryd

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	265	155
2024/2025	250	170
2025/2026	238	182
2026/2027	234	186
2027/2028	227	193

Ysgol ID Hooson

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	223	92
2024/2025	208	107
2025/2026	199	116
2026/2027	199	116
2027/2028	203	112

Ysgol Min Y Ddol

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	102	38
2024/2025	102	38
2025/2026	102	38
2026/2027	106	34
2027/2028	110	30

Ysgol Cynddelw

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	76	50
2024/2025	68	58
2025/2026	67	59
2026/2027	69	57
2027/2028	67	59

Ysgol Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog

Year	Pupil Projections (Full Time Pupils only)	Surplus Places
2023/2024	18	31
2024/2025	19	30
2025/2026	20	29
2026/2027	20	29
2027/2028	20	29

**Please note that pupil projections and surplus places are not currently available for Ysgol Llan Y Pwll; the new Welsh medium school which has recently opened on the old Borrass Infants site.*

As demonstrated, the nearest Welsh medium schools to the current St Mary's Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School, Brymbo site are Ysgol Bro Alun, Ysgol Bryn Tabor and Ysgol Plas Coch. Ysgol Bro Alun was a brand new Welsh medium school which opened its doors to pupils in 2013. The school was further extended and the Published Admissions Number (PAN) was increased to 45 in September 2019. Ysgol Plas Coch also had a permanent extension in 2016.

Based on projections, all of these schools have a number of surplus places for the parents of Brymbo wishing to access Welsh medium education should they wish to do so over the next five years. In line with the Council's transport policy, free school

transport would also be provided to pupils who wish to access Welsh medium education if they met the distance criteria. In order to qualify for free home to school transport, a child would need to be accessing Welsh medium education in the nearest suitable Welsh medium school to their home address and this would need to be 2 miles away or more. Distances are measured using the Council’s GIS mapping system.

In addition, there are a number of projected surplus places in Welsh medium schools across the borough as a whole which parents could access if they wanted to. In line with recommendations in the WESP 2022-2031, the “emphasis will be on filling the places we already have within the system” (page 35) before focusing on expanding Welsh-medium education further.

One potential impact of a newly built English medium school¹ in Brymbo (the ‘new school effect’) is that this may attract pupils into English medium education as oppose to Welsh medium education. Mitigations are being put in place to reduce this impact – see Impacts and Mitigation section.

The Welsh Language in the School and Wider Area

Pupil Use of Welsh Language	St Mary’s CIW VA School, Brymbo (English Medium)
Number of Full Time Pupils (January 2023)	123
% of pupils who speak Welsh at home	0%
% of pupils who do not speak Welsh at home	100%
% of pupils who cannot speak Welsh	100%
% of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh	0%
% of pupils who received a Teacher Assessment in Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase	0%
% of pupils who received a Teacher Assessment in Welsh at the end of Key Stage 2	0%
Pupils language medium in the playground	English
Pupils language medium in the breakfast club	English
Pupils language medium in the after-school club	English

Additional Opportunities to Access Welsh Language Provision	St Mary’s CIW VA School
Participation in Cylch Meithrin/Ti a Fi (Welsh-medium Playgroups)	No
Learning Welsh Visits (e.g. Glan Llyn)	Yes
Participation in the Eisteddfod/Urdd	Yes
Other Welsh Medium Activities	Yes

¹ Subject to planning permission.

Use of Welsh by Staff, Governors and Parents	St Mary's CIW VA School
Language most commonly used during governor meetings	English
Language most commonly used during Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings	English
Language most commonly used during staff meetings	English

Use of Welsh in the Community	St Mary's CIW VA School
The school is used by the community to learn Welsh	No

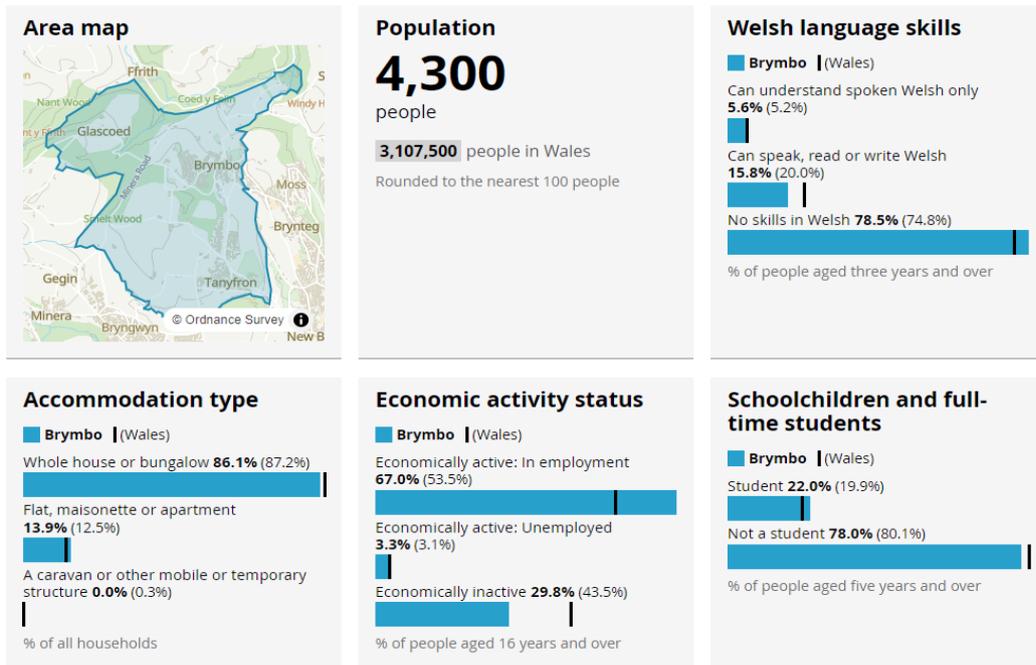
Welsh Language Skills in Wrexham (from Census 2021)

Welsh Language Skill	Percentage
Speak, read or write Welsh	14.5%
Understand spoken Welsh only	5.4%
Speak but cannot read or write Welsh	1.9%
Speak and read but cannot write Welsh	0.9%
Read but cannot speak or write Welsh	1.4%
Write but cannot speak or read Welsh	0.2%
Can read and write but cannot speak Welsh	0.6%
No skills in Welsh	80.1%

According to the 2021 Census, over half of the population of Wrexham were born in Wales (67.9%). 14.5% of people in Wrexham can speak, read or write Welsh. The ability to speak, read and write Welsh is at its highest in the rural ward of Rhosllanerchrugog and Johnstown South (23.1%) and is at its lowest in the rural ward of Bangor on Dee, Overton and Penley (9.4%). 12.2% of the population of Wrexham can speak Welsh compared to a Wales average of 17.8%.

Area Profile-Brymbo

Information on the area profile based on the 2021 Census can found below:



Source: Office for National Statistics - Census 2021

Policy WL1: Welsh Language and the Social and Cultural Fabric of Communities

Within the Welsh Language Sensitive Areas identified on the Proposals Map (communities of Ceiriog Ucha, Coedpoeth, Glyntraian, Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog, Minera, Pen-y-cae and Rhosllanerchrugog) the following windfall developments will be subject to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment by WCBC. Where the Impact Assessment demonstrates that the development may have an adverse impact, proposals must be accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan setting out the measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh Language and culture:

- i. All residential applications for 5 or more units in the Ceiriog Valley (Ceiriog Ucha, Glyntraian, Llansantffraid Glyn Ceiriog communities) and Minera community;
- ii. All residential applications for 15 or more units elsewhere within the Welsh Language Sensitive Areas.

The implementation of any measures identified within the Language Action Plan shall be secured either by planning conditions or, where necessary, by planning obligations.

Welsh Medium Education Projects - Background

Ysgol Plas Coch

In 2016, a £1 million modernisation scheme was implemented at the school, the aim to permanently increase the numbers of Welsh medium places from 210 to 315. An extension to the school provides three new classrooms providing permanent spaces for learning to replace temporary accommodation.

Ysgol Bro Alun

In 2013, we opened a new 210 place Welsh medium school in Wrexham, Ysgol Bro Alun. This school was so successful in drawing pupils we have since expanded this site to accommodate 315 places as of September 2019. The project offered opportunity for continued growth, offered a greater choice to parents and met the desired increase in demographic spread of Welsh medium schools.

Ysgol ID Hooson

Alongside the successful expansion at Ysgol Bro Alun CP in Gwersyllt, the Council has also been successful in securing an outline funding bid, under the Welsh Government's Welsh Capital funding stream, to expand provision at Ysgol ID Hooson in Rhosllanerchrugog. Initially, this was for a two classroom extension to replace existing mobiles on site. Since this successful bid, the Council has, in support of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, requested additional capital funding to secure £6,300,000 to permanently extend the existing primary school building with an additional seven classrooms. The scheme would also allow for considerable alterations for example to accommodate a studio hall, a larger relocated kitchen and extension to the Foundation Phase areas. Welsh Government are providing 100% grant funding for this Capital grant. The extension will provide permanent spaces for learning to replace temporary accommodation and will temporarily house wrap around child care. This again creates further capacity and provides the opportunity for Ysgol ID Hooson to become a 420 capacity primary school if required.

Ysgol Llan Y Pwll

The Local Authority has increased the geographic spread of Welsh medium schools in the borough by opening a new Welsh medium school at the old Borrás Infants site. The project involved extending and extensively remodelling the previous Borrás Infants site in order to accommodate a new Welsh medium school with a capacity of 210 and a 30 place nursery. Funding was also secured through the Childcare grant and a new Childcare provision was created on site. By increasing the geographic spread of Welsh medium provision, the Council has ensured that Welsh medium education is increasingly accessible to parents and has also ensured that the time pupils need to travel to a local Welsh medium school is reduced. Ysgol Llan y Pwll opened in September 2022 for reception and nursery children. The aims of the above projects were:

- To continue to generate greater access and wider participation within Welsh medium at a Primary level for Wrexham learners.
- To continue increased participation and retention within the Welsh medium Primary sector.
- To address the demand for Welsh medium places in Wrexham.
- To increase the demographic spread of Welsh medium primary provision in Wrexham.

- To ensure increased efficiency and effectiveness to provide the best value for money.
- Supporting the Welsh Government's vision and strategy of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Support the aims and objectives within Wrexham's Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (2022-2027).

Secondary Welsh Medium Education

In terms of secondary Welsh medium education, the Local Authority operates a 'Trochi' Programme for late comers to Welsh medium secondary education. This programme enables pupils to receive intensive Welsh language support in Ysgol Morgan Llwyd; Wrexham's Welsh-medium secondary school. The programme begins during the second half of the summer term, whilst the pupils are still in Year 6, and continues throughout Year 7. Based on the success of the Trochi Programme we are actively pursuing funding grants to build on these successes.

The Local Authority have also increased the available capacity at the Morgan Llwyd site by 240 places by creating a stand-alone sixth form provision under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme at a cost of £1,734,544. This work was completed in May 2019.

In the future, further consultation will be required to formally increase the admission number as required, utilising the space freed by the new sixth form provision.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The vision: The year 2050: The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales. Our vision is to secure favourable circumstances throughout the country that support language acquisition and use of Welsh language skills. We want to see an increase in language transmission in the family, early introduction of Welsh to every child and an education system that provides Welsh language skills for all.

Cymraeg 2050 – A million Welsh speakers (Welsh Government, 2017)

Having recognised the appetite for Welsh medium education in Wrexham, we are exceptionally pleased at the progress we have made to date and commit to its further development during the coming 10 years.

Wrexham Council have been very successful in meeting demand for Welsh medium school places and indeed have grown considerably prior to and across the lifetime of the previous WESP. In 2013 we opened a new 210 place Welsh medium school Ysgol Bro Alun, this school was so successful in drawing pupils we have since expanded the provision at this site to accommodate 315 pupil places.

In addition, we have expanded provision across a number of Welsh medium schools where the sites allowed. Since 2019, we have increased capacity in primary by 165 places or 8.7%.

The WESP 2022-31, is a vital part of the Council's vision for increasing and improving the planning of the provision of Welsh medium education in Wrexham County Borough Council, to enable all learners to develop their Welsh language skills and use the language confidently in everyday life. It both complements and assists in facilitating the National vision for the Welsh language, to have 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Welsh Language Promotion Strategy

Under Welsh Language Standard 145 local authorities had to develop and implement 5 year promotion strategies, working with partner organisations to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language more widely in their respective areas. Amongst other matters the strategy had to include the following:

- A target (in terms of the percentage of speakers in the area) for increasing or maintaining the number of Welsh speakers in the area by the end of the 5-year period concerned;
- A statement setting out how they intend to reach that target; and conduct a review of the strategy and publish a revised version on their website within 5 years of publishing a strategy (or of publishing a revised strategy).

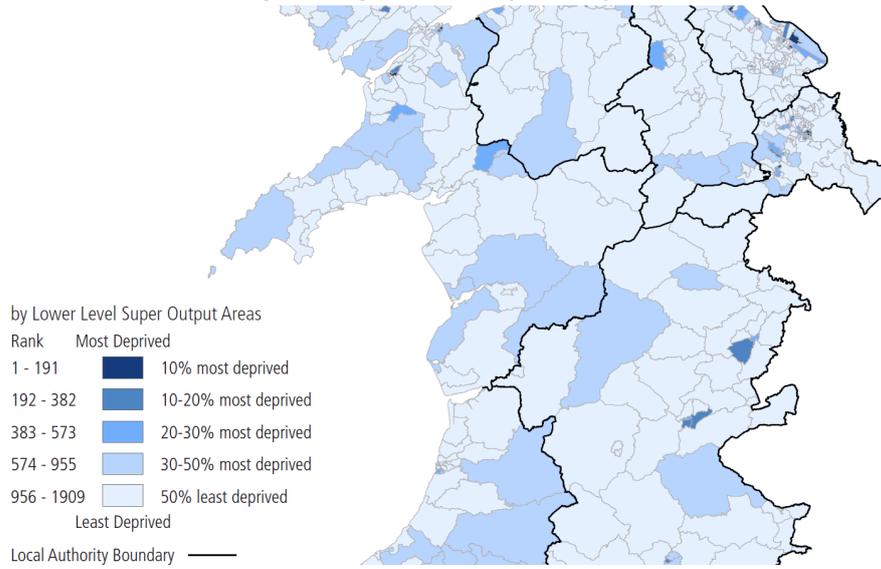
Welsh-medium education, whether in the form of full Welsh-medium provision via Welsh schools, or the teaching of Welsh as a second language in English-medium schools, directly supports this aim and intrinsically links this strategy with the WESP.

Social Deprivation Considerations

In the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 it was reported that Wrexham Local Authority contains 85 LSOAs (4.5% of the 1909 total LSOAs in Wales) Of the 0 - 10 % most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the overall domain: 6 are within the Wrexham Local Authority. Which accounts for 7.1% of those in the Local Authority and 0.3% of those in Wales. [WIMD - Wrexham \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/wimd)

The proposal to increase capacity at an English medium school could have an impact on parental choice and access to Welsh medium education in terms of the perceived positive opportunities that a potential new school might offer their children. There are both Welsh language and socio-economic considerations to consider. A number of possible mitigations to limit adverse impacts is outlined in the Impacts and Mitigations section.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)



Source: Welsh Government November 2019

Impacts and Mitigations

The following possible impacts have been identified in relation to this proposal:

Potential Impact	Negative/Positive	Mitigation	Comment / Impact on WESP Objective
<p>1. Pupil numbers will decrease in Welsh-medium schools due to increased capacity at St. Mary's Brymbo primary school</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>In order to mitigate against a decrease in numbers accessing Welsh medium education from the proposed school area, the local authority has proactively created a programme of events and promotional materials to promote the Welsh medium offer and will work with the Brymbo community in raising awareness regarding the Welsh medium provision available to them.</p> <p>Significant investment in Welsh medium education provision in Wrexham, including new and refurbished buildings, we are now in the position where 100% first preference admission places have been met in Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Welsh language immersion offer provides a 'taster course' during the Summer term of Year 6 so that learners from English medium provisions can decide whether to transfer to a Welsh Medium secondary school. From September 2023 we have offered 'trochi' sessions for all English medium schools.</p> <p>The latecomers provision for primary aged pupils has been developed significantly during the last two years. This has resulted in an increase in numbers of pupils accessing Welsh medium education.</p>	<p>Evidence from previous school reorganisation proposals to increase capacity in English medium schools has not resulted in a direct decline in pupil numbers in Welsh-medium schools. (links to WESP Outcome 1 and 2)</p>

		<p>The Trochi provision has grown as follows during the past 3 years 2021/22 (under Ysgol Morgan Llwyd) - 3 learners, 2022/23 (under LA) - 17 learners, 2023/24 - 24 learners, 2024/25 – forecasting over 30 pupils (links to WESP Outcome 3).</p> <p>There is an existing minibus service which transports pupils from the Brymbo area to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bryn Tabor.</p>	
<p>2. The proposal could have an adverse impact on the community causing Welsh language to decline in the area</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>The Welsh Language Strategic Officer regularly shares opportunities to learn Welsh locally via social media and the council news blog. A list is also held on the website.</p> <p>Dysgu Cymraeg (Coleg Cambria) promotes and facilitates the use of the Welsh language and increasing its use in everyday life within schools and the wider community, for example, Welsh at Home online course and courses for parents are promoted and run within local communities.</p> <p>Ensure close and effective engagement with partners e.g. Menter Iaith, Urdd to provide opportunities and promote the benefits of</p>	<p>Links to WESP Outcome 5</p>

		<p>the Welsh language within the community (links to WESP Outcome 5).</p> <p>The Library Homelink Service offers books, audiobooks and resources available throughout Wales in Welsh to residents in Brymbo.</p>	
<p>3. Increasing the capacity at an English-medium school could attract more pupils to the school meaning the English language would become more dominant</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>We are aiming to minimise any potential adverse impacts arising from a new English medium school in Brymbo (the ‘new school effect’) by keeping the increase in capacity at the school to a minimum.</p> <p>In the past where significant investment has been implemented in new school buildings for Welsh-medium education this has attracted parents to Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>A new website ‘Addysg Gymraeg Wreccsam’ Addysg Gymraeg Wreccsam has been developed to be the main hub of information for residents with the aim being to raise awareness, promote, support and celebrate the Welsh medium education offer in Wrexham.</p> <p>Information regarding the benefits of bilingualism is highlighted on the Council’s Admissions webpage.</p> <p>One of our main objectives in the WESP is to actively promote and increase numbers accessing Welsh medium education. There is a programme of work in place to meet these</p>	<p>We continue to support families in choosing Welsh-medium education and in their journey through school and beyond. Links to WESP Outcome 5</p>

		<p>objectives over the next 3 years, including public events, events to promote Welsh medium education with other Welsh in Education Forum stakeholders, the development of promotional videos and social media pages and content.</p> <p>We will be working closely with the National Eisteddfod to prepare for the Eisteddfod event being hosted in Wrexham in August 2025.</p> <p>The Ysgol Morgan Llwyd cluster of schools and latercomers service have recently submitted an application to the Taith Pathway 2 grant to visit New Brunswick in Canada the only official bilingual state and that has a thriving French education system. The cluster will learn about the effective measures put in place through the partnerships developed between the local authority, wider community and schools. We will learn and report on the good practice and seek to implement this within our WESP strategies.</p>	
<p>4.Increasing the capacity at an English-medium primary school could result in fewer pupils going into Welsh-medium secondary education</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>The Trochi provision is a very positive addition to Ysgol Morgan Llwyd and provides a positive influence for parents when choosing a secondary schools.</p> <p>With rising Trochi pupil numbers, we are directly impacting on the number of learners studying for assessed qualifications in Welsh.</p>	<p>Links to WESP Outcomes 3 and 4.</p>

		In 2024, the Trochi staff members will be working with primary schools and offering on-site taster sessions to promote the provision.	
5. The proposal could have an adverse impact on parents choosing Welsh-medium childcare	Negative	<p>The Council is working with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, Cylch Ti a Fi and Flying Start to ensure adequate provision of childcare places within easy reach of main population areas.</p> <p>New Early Education providers from January 2023 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cylch Bryn Tabor • Cylch Meithrin Llan y Pwll • Cylch Bro Alun • Cylch Bodhyfryd • Cylch Cynddelw • Cylch Summerhill • New Cylch on site at Ysgol Hooson • Developments at Ysgol Plas Coch <p>We continue to support parents of Cymraeg i Blant by promoting and extending further the running of support sessions for prospective and new parents by offering baby massage, baby yoga and Story, Sign and Song sessions.</p>	Links to WESP Outcome 1

		<p>The Mudiad Meithrin Officer continues to regularly attend pre and post-natal sessions to share information on the benefits of introducing the Welsh language and to share information about Welsh language care and education by working with the Health Visitors and Midwives across the County.</p> <p>We work together to ensure that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment meets the need for Welsh-medium provision by strengthening and expanding Welsh-medium childcare provision to ensure a seamless path to Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>In addition, we work with Early Years Wales regarding the support they provide to English Medium Playgroups to make more use of the Welsh Language.</p> <p>Flying Start provision is now being added to Ysgol Bryn Tabor and is in place in several other Welsh medium schools.</p> <p>The Family Information Service also hold a list of all Welsh-medium provision which is made available to families.</p>	
<p>6.The proposal could have an adverse impact on retaining pupils in Welsh-medium education with additional learning needs (ALN)</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>Noddfa opened in September 2023 to provide a comprehensive support service for additional learning needs across the county borough. The support service available from Noddfa is fully bilingual and therefore supports Outcome 6 in the WESP which aims to expand ALN provision through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Links to WESP Outcome 6</p>

		<p>We recognise that the three nearest Welsh medium primary schools do not have ALN provision, however this is being addressed through the WESP objectives as part of Outcome 6. It is also included as part of the wider county borough ALN Review which is currently being undertaken.</p>	
<p>7. The number of Welsh speaking teaching staff could be adversely affected in Wrexham</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>The opening of our new Trochi unit has provided the opportunity to use the immersion provision to upskill staff. Staff are accessing 'confidence building' training programmes at our primary language acquisition unit at Ysgol Min y Ddol. We intend to use the new Trochi unit at Ysgol Morgan Llwyd to expand this provision and upskill English medium teachers in order to build their confidence and inspire them to transfer their enthusiasm to the learners, thus contributing to an interest in the language and possibly transferring to Welsh Medium.</p> <p>The addition of a permanent base for the provision will allow the service to see through its long term strategy for development and continue to contribute to the Cymraeg 2050 targets.</p> <p>As a base to host Teaching workshops for school staff and / or teachers from other schools and / or the parents of our pupils, the</p>	<p>Links to WESP Outcome 7</p>

		<p>Trochi provision has the opportunity to directly impact the core WESP aim of... “To improve provision in English medium schools in order to significantly raise standards of Welsh language and promote bilingualism”. It will also offer the opportunity for teachers from other schools to be supported in their use of Welsh and is in support of the council’s wider WESP outcome to “...Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh”.</p> <p>Cwrs CAMAU available to all early years practitioners. This is a free course to learn Welsh, designed for staff in Cylchoedd Meithrin, day nurseries and child minders. This is a self-study online course at Entry level (so it is suitable for beginners and those who’ve attended Taster Courses).</p> <p>Sabbatical courses are available to non-Welsh speaking teaching and support staff. Teaching and support staff from across Wrexham access this opportunity for professional development each year.</p>	
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Conclusion and Summary

Whilst we have identified a number of negative impacts, we have a number of mitigations in place as outlined above which aim to reduce these impacts on various factors that could affect the Welsh language and Welsh culture.

We recognise there is more work to be undertaken as part of our drive to actively promote Welsh medium education, address shortfalls in our Welsh medium ALN provision and to upskill staff competency. We are confident that our work on these WESP objectives will minimise and mitigate any potential impacts from the proposal as we continue to promote and raise the profile of Welsh medium education.

Appendix A - Relevant Welsh Language Standards

Standard Number	Class of Standard	Standard	Date
88	Policy Making	<p>When you formulate a new policy, or review or revise an existing policy, you must consider what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the policy decision would have on:</p> <p>(a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>	30/03/2016
89	Policy Making	<p>When you formulate a new policy, or review or revise an existing policy, you must consider how the policy could be formulated (or how an existing policy could be changed) so that the policy decision would have positive effects, or increased positive effects, on:</p> <p>(a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>	30/03/2016

90	Policy Making	<p>When you formulate a new policy, or review or revise an existing policy, you must consider how the policy could be formulated (or how an existing policy could be changed) so that the policy decision would not have adverse effects, or so that it would have decreased adverse effects, on:</p> <p>(a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>	30/03/2016
91	Policy Making	<p>When you publish a consultation document which relates to a policy decision, the document must consider, and seek views on, the effects (whether positive or adverse) that the policy decision under consideration would have on:</p> <p>(a) opportunities for persons to use the welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p>	30/03/2016

92	Policy Making	Policy Making When you publish a consultation document which relates to a policy decision the document must consider, and seek views on, how the policy under consideration could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive effects, or increased positive effects, on (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	30/03/2016
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Appendix B – School Organisation Code 2018 – Welsh Language Impact Assessments

The Welsh Government takes the view that the requirement for assessments should not be overly burdensome and does not consider that it is necessary to commission such work from external consultants. Local authorities are already under a duty to carry out equality impact assessments which could provide the basis for the impact assessments specified in this guidance.

Welsh Language Impact

These notes are not prescriptive or exhaustive but the impact assessment in respect of the Welsh language might include the following:

- Information on the language category of the school;
- Information on the language category of any alternative school;
- Information about standards in the Welsh language in the school and any alternative school;
- Information about after school activities which provide additional opportunities to use Welsh in the school and any alternative school (e.g. the Urdd, Mentrau Iaith clubs);
- Information about whether the school provides facilities for members of the community to learn Welsh, or undertake activities through the medium of Welsh, and where any alternative facilities could be provided;
- Whether it might be appropriate to provide additional after school facilities at any alternative school to further secure standards in the Welsh language;
- How parents' and pupils' engagement with any alternative school and any specific language enhancement it offers could be supported (e.g. how pupils will be helped to participate in activities provided by the Urdd, Mentrau Iaith);
- Observations provided by the local authority's Welsh medium education forum (if it has one)³²;

Information on how the proposal fits with the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and any future actions that will be needed in consequence of the change to continue to comply with the scheme or meet targets in the scheme.

Appendix C - Relevant Policies and Legislation

Below is a hyperlinked list of Council, Welsh Government and other relevant policies, legislation and information, as noted throughout this assessment.

Wrexham County Borough Council Welsh Language Policies and Strategies

- [Wrexham Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#)
- [Wrexham Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#)
- [Wrexham Welsh Language Standards Compliance Notice](#)
- [Local Planning Guidance Note 31 The Welsh Language and Welsh Communities](#)

Welsh Government Legislation and Regulations

- [Welsh-medium and bilingual education](#)
- [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)
- [Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) Regulations 2019](#)
- [Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 Guidance](#)
- [Cymraeg 2050](#)
- [Planning Policy Wales: TAN 20](#)

Other Information

- [Stats Wales: Welsh language 2011 by Local Authority](#)
- [Stats Wales: Pupils being taught Welsh as a first language](#)

- [Stats Wales: WIMD 2019 Local Authority Analysis](#)

Appendix D - Welsh Language Partner Organisations

This is a list of organisations who support and promote the Welsh language and Welsh-medium education, either voluntarily or through their corporate governance and/or strategic role in ensuring compliance with legislative requirements.

Many are partners on Wrexham County Borough Council Welsh in Education Strategic Language Forum.

- [Menter Iaith Fflint a Wrecsam](#)
- [Mudiad Ysgol Meithrin](#)
- [Wrexham Public Services Board](#)
- [Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg](#)
- [Urdd Gobaith Cymru – Fflint a Wrecsam](#)
- [GwE \(the Regional Education Consortium for North Wales\)](#)
- [Estyn](#)
- [Welsh Language Commissioner](#)
- [Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg \(the Welsh Language Society\)](#)