

# Policy 7: Promoting Bilingualism

## **Denbighshire's aspiration for pupils' bilingual skills**

Denbighshire County Council recognises how important bilingualism is in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wales. It is the Council's aspiration that all children and young people leave full time education being competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. This aspiration is in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Iaith Pawb: A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales'.

The Council is committed to expanding the provision of Welsh medium education throughout the County to meet this aspiration. All schools in the County have been categorised according to the expected language outcome for pupils. There is an expectation that schools will increase and strengthen the bilingual nature of their school over time and will work towards moving up through the categories so that more pupils have the opportunity to be fully bilingual.

Denbighshire's Education Welsh Language Scheme details the actions that will be taken to ensure that this happens. The Scheme has been agreed with the Welsh Language Board, is subject to an annual review and is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Bilingual Skills Working Party.

## **What the law says about the teaching of Welsh**

The Education Act 1996 stipulates that Welsh will be taught to all pupils from 5-16. This means every child of compulsory school age has the right to learn Welsh as a first or second language as appropriate. All schools in Denbighshire teach Welsh as a first or second language.

It is recognised that the most appropriate way for pupils to become bilingual is to receive a Welsh medium education.

## **What is the definition of Welsh medium education used by Denbighshire County Council?**

A Welsh medium education is one where the expected outcome and curriculum experience for a pupil would be;

**Outcome:** That pupils, regardless of home language would in the case of Primary be able to transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision and by the end of KS2 would have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools. Pupils who have received a Welsh medium primary education would be expected to progress to Welsh medium secondary education. For secondary pupils, the normal expectation is that assessment at Key stage 3 and Key stage 4 will be through the medium of Welsh in all subjects apart from English and that pupils will be able to progress easily to Welsh medium post 16 provision.

**Curriculum** – Welsh is the main teaching medium throughout all key stages. English is introduced as a subject at KS2 and English may occasionally be used for some aspects of some subjects.

## **How are schools categorised according to Welsh Language Provision in Denbighshire?**

In accordance with Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) requirements all schools are defined in detail according to WAG definitions and the categories published as required in the Schools' Information Guide.

In order to further assist parents in choosing a school for their child Denbighshire have also categorised schools according to the expected language outcome for a pupil. It is important to note that the Denbighshire categories refer to the experience and expected outcome for a pupil and not necessarily the language provision of the whole school.

It is the Denbighshire categories that are used when determining the nearest suitable school in relation to language medium of education and therefore affect the criteria and eligibility for transport and admission arrangements.

The Council is particularly sensitive to parents' expectation that pupils be educated in the same language medium in the secondary phase as they were in the primary stage and for secondary pupils to have access to the same offer of subjects regardless of the language choice.

The Council will strive to meet this expectation and will continue to enhance its capacity to do this. However, the Council does acknowledge that there is a national shortage of Welsh medium teachers for some subjects, and that this expectation may on some occasions, be difficult to meet.

### **Promoting bilingualism for pupils with Special Educational Needs**

In accordance with Iaith Pawb, Denbighshire considers Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in Welsh and bilingually as a matter of equal opportunity. Iaith Pawb acknowledges the right of pupils with SEN to receive provision in language of their choice as set out in the revised SEN Code of Practice for Wales. In accordance with the Code of Practice, the Council seeks to increase the offer of Welsh medium education to those pupils attending mainstream schools and those pupils attending Special Schools irrespective of the individual SEN requirements.

Denbighshire's Education Welsh Language Scheme details the actions that will be taken to ensure that this happens. The Scheme has been agreed with the Welsh Language Board, is subject to an annual review and is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Bilingual Skills Working Party.

### **Promoting bilingualism for newcomers to the Welsh language**

All Welsh-medium nursery and primary provision in Denbighshire is open to children who come from non-Welsh-speaking homes.

For latecomers to the Welsh language, for example pupils who move into Denbighshire immediately prior to transition to secondary school or those who wish to change the medium of education to Welsh are encouraged to do so and the Council actively participate in schemes to enable more pupils to become fully bilingual or study more subjects through the medium of Welsh than would otherwise have been the case.

Primary School

| Denbighshire Category | Normal expected outcome for pupil  | Name of School |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| 1                     | <p>The pupil will be competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages and by the end of Key stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in category 2 schools. Welsh is taught as a first language. The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer easily to Welsh medium secondary provision.</p>   |                |
| 2                     | <p>The pupil will be competent and confident in the use of English language and will have basic Welsh language skills at the end of primary school.</p> <p>Welsh is taught as a second language. Some aspects of some subjects may be taught in Welsh. Most pupils would be assessed in English in most subjects and would progress to English medium secondary school.</p> <p>There will be incidental use of Welsh within the school and opportunities may exist for use of Welsh in extra-curricular and social activities.</p> |                |

## Secondary School

| Denbighshire Category | Normal Expected outcome for pupil   | Name of School |
|-----------------------|---|----------------|
| 1                     | <p>The pupil will be competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages and will be assessed at Key stage 3 and Key stage 4 through the medium of Welsh in all or the majority of subjects apart from English. Pupils would study Welsh as a first language. Pupils will be able to progress easily to Welsh medium post 16 study.</p>  |                |
| 1b                    | <p>The pupil will be competent and confident using both Welsh and English languages. The pupil would have studied Welsh as a first language.</p> <p>Pupils choosing Welsh medium options will be assessed through the medium of Welsh in those subjects at all levels and may be capable to progress to study at post 16 through the medium of Welsh for those subjects.</p> <p>Bilingual skills will be further developed and some pupils may transfer and be assessed through the medium of Welsh in all subjects</p>   |                |
| 2                     | <p>The pupil will be competent and confident in the use of English language and will have basic or intermediate Welsh language skills at the end of secondary school. Pupils who have attended Denbighshire primary schools will be expected to have improved their bilingual skills during their time at secondary school.</p> <p>Welsh is taught as a second language. Most pupils would be assessed in English in most subjects and would progress to English medium post 16 study.</p> <p>There will be incidental use of Welsh within the school and opportunities may exist for use of Welsh in extra-curricular and social activities.</p> |                |