



Schools, Governance and Technical Services

WELSH EDUCATION SCHEME 2010 - 2015



BWRDD YR IAITH
GYMRAEG • WELSH
LANGUAGE BOARD

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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'Putting children first..... helping schools improve'

Gosod plant yn gyntaf..... helpu ysgolion i wella

*A Welsh Education Scheme,
prepared in accordance with the
requirements of the Welsh
Language Act 1993*

Table of Contents

	Page No(s)
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. MAIN AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WELSH EDUCATION SCHEME	3
3. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS	4
4. THE COUNCIL'S SINGLE EDUCATION PLAN AND ITS RELATION TO THE WELSH EDUCATION SCHEME	6
5. GEOGRAPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUND	7
6. THE STATE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE SINCE 1990.....	8
7. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUTHORITY'S WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY.....	8
8. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION WITHIN THE LEA	8
9. MAPPING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELSH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE WITHIN THE LEA	9
10. SCHOOL DEFINITIONS AND LINGUISTIC CATEGORIES	13
11. CURRENT PROVISION.....	13
12. WELSH-MEDIUM NURSERY AND EARLY YEARS EDUCATION.....	14
13. PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY EDUCATION	18
14. SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE CAREERS SERVICE AND YOUTH SERVICES.....	21
15. POST -16 PROVISION.....	23
16. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)	24
17. SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS.....	26
18. TRANSPORT POLICY	26
19. FUNDING POLICY FOR WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION.....	26
20. ATHRAWON BRO SERVICE AND THE ADVISORY SERVICE	28
21. LANGUAGE CENTRES.....	29
22. INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION	29
23. TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS.....	29
24. STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT	30
25. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND BASIC SKILLS.....	30
26. LINKS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS.....	30
27. MONITORING	31
28. TARGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE BY SECTOR.....	32
29. APPENDICES	
1. CENSUS DATA : WELSH SPEAKERS BY INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL WARDS..	44
2. LIST OF INSET COURSES.....	45
3. GROWTH DEVELOPMENT TABLE FOR WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION.....	46
4. PROJECTIONS FOR NUMBERS OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS.....	47

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 19 February 1998, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council published a Welsh Language Scheme in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993. It was approved by the Welsh Language Board, and states how the County Borough Council, in its dealings with the public, will treat the Welsh and English languages on the basis of equality.

Under Section 5 of the Welsh Language Act 1993, the Local Education Authority is required to provide a Welsh Language Scheme dealing specifically with Education. For ease of reference this Scheme is called a "Welsh Education Scheme".

1.2 The "Welsh Education Scheme" forms part of the main language scheme.

- a) Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Welsh Education Scheme was approved by the Welsh Language Board under Section 14(1) of the Welsh Language Act 1993, on 16 June 2001. Following the Welsh Education Scheme's three year implementation period, this Scheme becomes its successor.
- b) This Welsh Education Scheme was approved by the Welsh Language Board under Section 14(1) of the Welsh Language Act 1993 on *(to be inserted following the consultation period)*.
- c) The commitments and arrangements contained in this Welsh Education Scheme have been approved at the highest level, and the Scheme will be implemented bearing the full authority and support of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.
- d) Should any targets in this Welsh Education Scheme require the implementation of statutory procedures, these will be fully implemented according to appropriate legislative requirements such as the terms of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Further information regarding the "Welsh Education Scheme" is available from:-

Education Service Board Manager
Governance, Inclusion and School Support
Schools, Governance and Technical Services
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Ty Keir Hardie
Riverside Court
Avenue de Clichy
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8XD

Tel No: 01685/724616
Fax No: 01685/721965
Email: education@merthyr.gov.uk

2 MAIN AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WELSH EDUCATION SCHEME

- To ensure that Welsh-medium education is available to all children whose parents/carers wish them to receive their education through the medium of Welsh, and this within reasonable travelling distance from the children's homes. This means children of pre-school age and above.
- To ensure a developing continuum from Welsh-medium primary education through to Welsh-medium secondary education. Pupils who have received their primary education through the medium of Welsh will be able to attend a Welsh-medium secondary school; to

promote a linguistic continuum from Key Stage 4 (KS4) onwards through to their lifelong learning career for pupils and students within the County.

- To ensure that Welsh is taught as a first and/or second language on the timetable of all the County Borough's schools, in accordance with the National Curriculum's statutory requirements for all key stages; to ensure that all pupils are given the opportunity to sit an externally accredited examination in Welsh by the end of KS4.
- To ensure that children and young people with special educational needs receive linguistic equality of opportunity in terms of Welsh-medium education, during the entire statementing process, and this in line with the SEN Code of Practice for Wales.
- To ensure that all pupils attending a designated Welsh-medium school are able to speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.
- To work in partnership with all schools in order to improve the standard of Welsh as a first and second language. All the County Borough's schools will receive advice and support from advisors on the Welsh language and from school support services. Further support will be provided by Athrawon Bro who visit and monitor schools' language standards on behalf of the LEA.
- To run and promote the existing in-service training programme that supports the development of Welsh as a first and second language, and to provide opportunities for pupils to improve their knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic ethos/characteristics of Wales via the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 All the targets in the first Welsh Education Scheme were met.

3.2 The County's Vision

The Council's Welsh Language Scheme outlines its priorities to:

- make every effort to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh wherever possible;
- move the Council closer to implementing the principle of equality at every opportunity.

New policies and initiatives within the Authority are consistent with the principles of the original scheme, and must take into account practicalities which do not undermine our intent to foster and promote equality in Welsh language provision.

Service provision in Welsh seeks to be of an equally high standard to that provided through the medium of English. This is monitored via the Customer Care service standards. Information concerning the Council's commitment to equality of standard between both languages is included in its key documents including the Continuous Improvement Progress Report.

Service delivery in both languages complies with existing commitment to standards as specified in the Citizen's Charter and other adopted performance indicators affecting interaction with customers. The Council aims to ensure consistency in the standard of services in Welsh at all of its service delivery points. The standards applied to Welsh language service and their implementation continue to be monitored on a regular basis, with a thorough annual review.

3.3 Strategies for the Future

The Authority, working in conjunction with the Early Years and Childcare Partnership continues to review pupil number projections in order to be able to plan strategically for future need. Current figures have shown that the Authority meets the requirement for a 0.5 nursery place for 3 year olds and that private provision complements this by offering additional early years' Welsh medium support. The Integrated Children's Centre, which opened in 2005, offers provision for both sectors, and this is through a partnership with private providers (see Section 12.9 for further details).

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has falling pupil numbers and there are (Jan 2010) 1,730 fewer pupils in primary schools now than there were in 1996. This drop has also affected the Welsh-medium primary schools: numbers on roll (pupils aged 4-11) have fallen from 630 in 1996 to the current level of 470. The *Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11* demonstrates the authority's commitment to continue to raise attainment standards and to ensure that children and young people have access to a comprehensive range of education, training and learning opportunities and to continue to remove surplus places as described in the School Organisation Plan.

In order to continue to provide quality Welsh medium education for children of primary school age whose parents request it, the authority will undertake an annual review using birth rate, demographic and trend data to inform the planning of school places (see target 3.1). During 2010 the authority has circulated all household with information on Welsh medium education as an awareness raising process. During 2011-12 the authority will consider surveying parents to assess the demand for Welsh-medium education.

The authority is committed to providing at least a half-time place in an Early Years setting, through the medium of English or Welsh according to parental demand, from the term after a child's third birthday for all parents/carers who require it. In this, we continue to work closely with our partners in the voluntary sector, including Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and PPA (Wales).

Projection figures for pupil numbers in the Secondary sector as a whole expect to see the current number of pupils fall from 3988 in 2010 to 3804 in 2021. The Authority will continue to plan strategically and regionally, with neighbouring authorities such as Rhondda Cynon Taff, to ensure the provision of Welsh medium secondary education at a secondary level (see target 5.1).

3.4 As outlined in the authority's *Asset Management Plan 2009 - 2014*, maintaining and improving the quality of schools buildings is an important task for the Local Education Authority and its schools. Changing the environment of the school can have a positive impact upon teaching and learning as well as helping the school become a focal point in the community. The development of school buildings is crucial to the strategic plans of the Authority and involves a close partnership with schools, governing bodies and the community.

Through the use of the Authority's Capital Building Programme and funding from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), it is expected that both of the County Borough Council's Welsh medium primary schools will be re-located within the next few years to improved accommodation within the County Borough Council. Ysgol Santes Tudful moved to new premises at Pantyffyn Road, Merthyr Tydfil, in the Spring Term 2009. Ysgol Rhyd y Grug will move to its new site in Aberfan, Merthyr Tydfil, for September 2010. This is in line with the Authority's and WAG's policy to make all school buildings fit for teaching and learning in the 21st Century by 2016 (see target 3.1b).

4 THE COUNTY'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN AND ITS RELATION TO THE WELSH EDUCATION SCHEME

4.1 The Authority's Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) demonstrates a commitment by the LEA to advance its education and training agenda and to continue to raise attainment standards from their current levels. Central to this commitment is the fundamental element that

ensures pupils and students are provided with the educational stimulus to promote their language skills leading to bilingualism, and the appropriate proficiency in Welsh and English to meet the needs of the communities served by our schools.

4.2 The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the local approach to meeting the challenges of "*Children and Young People: A Good Today and a Bright Tomorrow*". The Education Service will continue to prioritise the agreed strategic priorities for change relevant to children and young people of all ages; to improve:

- attainment, qualifications and life skills;
- the social inclusion of disabled children and young people and their parents;
- emotional and mental health of children and young people;
- safety and well being for the most vulnerable children and young people;
- health and well being of all children and young people, particularly the sexual health of young people;
- children and young people's enjoyment, learning and social skills and increase physical activity through self directed play and recreational activity;
- children's, young people's and their parents' influence over the services they receive and over services which are designed for them;
- homeless young people's access to housing and support; and
- the life chances of children and young people through alleviating the impact of poverty and disadvantage

Addressing these issues and contributing to the actions identified within the themes are amongst the principal concerns of the Children and Young People's Plan. Our shared vision for children and young people is that:

In Merthyr Tydfil, all our children and young people enjoy life and achieve their full potential.

In terms of the CYPP the following priority areas and key objectives are particularly relevant to the Welsh Education Scheme:

Core Aim 5 Strategic Challenges:

To develop Merthyr as a bilingual community contributing to the national and local ambition to be a bi lingual country

Our second strategic challenge comes from the recognition that demand for Welsh medium services

is limited and that our task is to stimulate interest in the language, and to actively encourage bilingualism and to support expression of Welsh culture

4.3 To obtain a copy of the Children and Young People's Plan, contact: Head of Partnership Planning, Governance, Inclusion and School Support, Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD. The Plan can also be viewed on the authority's website www.merthyr.gov.uk

5 GEOGRAPHICAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUND

5.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is a unitary authority established when local government was reorganised in Wales in April 1996. It has 33 elected Councillors within 11 electoral wards. Within its existing boundaries there is a wide range of linguistic, cultural and social traditions, often based on the nature of the different kind of communities in the County Borough. The Council serves 54,117 inhabitants (2001 Census of Population (CAS146), Office for National Statistics).

Over the past two decades Merthyr Tydfil has experienced considerable economic change, particularly with the decline of extraction industries and, more recently, manufacturing. As a consequence of the decline of industries, Merthyr Tydfil experiences a range of associated

economic and social challenges, including high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity. A statistical bulletin released by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2005 showed that all 11 electoral divisions in the County Borough were among the 40% most deprived in Wales and all were more deprived overall than the average for Wales. 5534 (10.2%) Welsh speakers live in the County Borough (2001 Census of Population (CAS146), Office for National Statistics). The 2001 Census figures state that 24.5% within the 3-15 age group, and 14.6% within the 16-24 age group are Welsh speakers.

Please see **Appendix 1** for an Electoral Division thematic map and table of relevant data.

5.2 In Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, as in a number of other unitary authorities in Wales, there is a substantial difference in the percentage of Welsh speakers within the various communities. In Gurnos Ward, only 7.1% of the population can speak Welsh while 13.2% are able to speak the language in Cyfarthfa Ward.

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is responsible for providing electors with a range of local government services. These are supplied by the following departments in the Civic Centre, Castle Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8AN, or from Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD, as indicated below:

Director of Schools, Governance and Technical Services, Civic Centre
Director of Customer Services, Civic Centre
Director of Social Services and Social Regeneration, Ty Keir Hardie

The County's Governance, Inclusion and School Support Service is based at Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD, and the service provides education for children aged between 3 and 18 in schools. 9,508 children aged 3-18 are educated in the County Borough: 5,269 in the primary sector, 4,098 in the secondary sector, and 145 in special education sector. The size of the primary schools varies from 30 (Mount Pleasant Primary) to 398 (Ysgol Santes Tudful), and the size of the secondary schools from 657 (Bishop Hedley RC High School) to 1449 (Cyfarthfa High School).

5.3 10.58% of the County Borough's primary pupils receive Welsh-medium education. One pupil who has a special educational needs Statement (0.48% of all statemented pupils) receives their education through the medium of Welsh. In the secondary sector 8.8% of pupils receive Welsh-medium education.

5.4 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council adopted the principle that the Welsh and English languages should be treated equally in dealing with the public and in promoting equal opportunities. This principle is an integral part of the Welsh Education Scheme and of the Authority's aim to promote the successful development of Welsh as a first and second language in its educational establishments.

6 THE STATE OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE SINCE 1990

6.1 The population of Merthyr Tydfil declined from 59,900 in 1991 to 54,117 in 2001 (Census of Population figures). Currently 10.2% of the County Borough's population is Welsh speaking compared to 7.1% in 1991. This is an increase of 1,267 people and thought to be as a result of the growth of Welsh medium teaching and learning in all schools in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. The 2001 Census figures show that 24.5% within the 3-15 age group and 14.6% within the 16-24 age group are Welsh speakers. Appendix 1 outlines the distribution of the Welsh speaking population in Merthyr Tydfil.

7 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUTHORITY'S WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY

7.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has adopted the principle that the Welsh and English languages should be treated equally in dealing with the public and in the administration of justice. This principle is an integral part of the Welsh Education Scheme, and of the Authority's aim to promote the successful development of Welsh as a first and second language in its educational establishments.

7.2 Within the CYPP 2008-11 the authority aims to foster bilingualism and promote the Welsh dimension of the curriculum in Wales, having due regard to the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993.

8 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

8.1 The first Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Santes Tudful was opened in 1972. There followed a period of steady growth and in 1976 a second Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Rhyd y Grug was established.

8.2 The number of pupils receiving Welsh medium nursery education, provided by the Authority has also increased. As a result of statutory proposals, the English medium nursery based at Ysgol Rhyd y Grug became bilingual in September 1998, and subsequently Welsh medium, thus increasing the number of nursery places available through the Welsh Language.

Numbers on roll	Ysgol Rhyd y Grug (capacity 218)		Ysgol Santes Tudful (capacity 390)	
	Full time	Part time nursery places	Full time	Part time nursery places
January 1990	233	24	271	53
January 1997	252	18	392	56
January 2005	188 includes full time nursery places	0	334	55
January 2006	183 includes full time nursery places	0	328	52
January 2007	177 includes full time nursery places	0	379 includes full time nursery places	16
January 2008	164 includes full time nursery places	0	387 includes full time nursery places	0
January 2009	154 includes full time nursery places	0	341 includes full time nursery places	57
January 2010	145 includes full time nursery places	0	339	61

8.3 As can be seen in the above table, the demographic changes in Merthyr Tydfil have also affected the pupil numbers at the Welsh-medium schools. During the period January 1997 to January 2010 there has been a net loss of 19.19% of pupils across all sectors. By January 2010 the nursery/primary sectors alone had experienced a loss of 22.93% (1,577) of its pupils compared with the 1996 level. These changes are also evident in the Welsh medium primary schools where there has been a 24.09% reduction in the number of pupils since 1996.

8.4 Prior to Local Government Re-organisation, pupils in the secondary sector attended Welsh medium schools in Rhydywaun and Rhydfelen. Since 1996 most secondary aged pupils attend Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun whilst a small number of pupils continued to attend Ysgol Gyfun Rhydfelen in Taff Ely. Since 2001 pupils from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council have attended Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun and in March 2010 there were 398 pupils (aged 11-18) from Merthyr Tydfil on roll.

9 MAPPING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELSH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE WITHIN THE LEA

9.1 The Primary Sector

Merthyr Tydfil LEA aims to ensure that all pupils receive high quality education and to this end it has ensured that all teachers and classroom assistants responsible for the support and teaching of Welsh Second Language have the necessary knowledge and skills required to support pupils' learning as noted in the Assembly Government documents *Bilingual Future* and *laith Pawb*. In the English medium primary sector, the greatest need is seen as improving and re-enforcing the linguistic skills of the classroom teachers / assistants. The LEA in conjunction with its advisory service, ESIS, and the Athrawon Bro Team have supported the successful development of Welsh Second Language within Merthyr Tydfil schools through individual teacher and school support in addition to the annual INSET programme.

The focus has been on developing pupils' reading and, latterly, oracy skills in response to Estyn reports and recommendations. An annual monitoring and evaluation report on the use and effect of the Athrawon Bro Funding and Better Schools Fund highlights the development and progress made in the teaching of Welsh Second Language in the primary sector.

The Athrawon Bro Team monitors pupils' standards and all schools have benefited from INSET focusing on the ACCAC non-statutory assessment material at Key Stage 2.

Training to Support Welsh Second Language in the Primary Sector

A programme of 15-day intensive courses targeted at three levels of ability aims to increase the number of teachers who have sufficient working knowledge of Welsh to teach it as a second language subject to pupils from the Early Years to the end of Key Stage 2. A programme of 5-day refresher courses supplements these and is intended to ensure that teachers have the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge and skills. Teachers that attend these training sessions receive follow-up support according to need from the Athrawon Bro.

Teachers are also offered a programme of 5-day courses based around the delivery of key stage specific resources created by the ESIS Athrawon Bro including *Ben Bwgan Brain*, *Stabec* and the new video and supporting materials *Dylan y Dewin*. The attendance at and evaluation of these courses has been very positive. These courses are also available to special educational needs teachers.

The number of pupils learning Welsh as a second language across the two Key Stages is as follows:

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
1996	1,562	3,132
1999	1,591	2,995
2001	1,377	2,882
2005	1,177	2,526
2006	1,158	2,513
2007	1,142	2,454

2008	1,098	2,415
2009	1,129	2,307
2010	1,138	2,292

The number of pupils educated by the authority (including pupils at Ysgol Santes Tudful and Ysgol Rhyd y Grug) is as follows:

	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
1996	1,750	3,495
1999	1,604	3,405
2001	1,451	3,223
2005	1,328	2,849
2006	1,299	2,797
2007	1,283	2,742
2008	1,216	2,700
2009	1,250	2,587
2010	1,283	2,544

The differences in the two tables indicate the number of pupils that were not taught Welsh as a second language, for example, because Welsh was their first language or because they have special educational needs.

9.2 The Secondary Sector

In the four secondary schools within the County Borough all pupils are taught Welsh Second Language at Key Stage 3 in no less time than that allowed for other modern languages. In line with statutory requirements since 1999, all secondary schools have introduced Welsh Second Language as a compulsory subject in Key Stage 4. All pupils are given the opportunity to sit an externally accredited examination in Welsh as a Second Language at the end of Key Stage 4. All pupils can choose both AS and A level Welsh at Key Stage 5 within their current school or through collaborative working arrangements. Pupils in the authority's special school are given the opportunity to follow a suitable Welsh Second Language course.

The number of pupils learning Welsh as a second language across the two Key Stages is as follows:

	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
1996	2,476	766
1999	2,429	1,216
2001	2,364	1,635
2005	2,207	1,530
2006	2,222	1,534
2007	2,147	1,482
2008	2,055	1,496
2009	2,007	1,475
2010	1,942	1,379

The number of pupils educated by the Authority across the two Key Stages is as follows:

	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
1996	2,528	1,599
1999	2,475	1,693
2001	2,416	1,660
2005	2,244	1,556
2006	2,260	1,560
2007	2,182	1,508
2008	2,057	1,495
2009	2,011	1,479
2010	1,957	1,388

The differences in the two tables indicate the number of pupils that were not taught Welsh as a second language, for example, because Welsh was their first language or because they have special educational needs. These tables do not include secondary pupils being taught through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Rhydywaun.

Training to Support Welsh Second Language in the Secondary Sector

As in the primary sector, Merthyr Tydfil LEA ensures that all teachers of Welsh Second Language have the necessary knowledge and skills required to support pupils' learning. In the English medium secondary sector, teachers benefit from a programme of continuous professional development on an individual / County Borough / inter-County Borough basis supported by the ESIS Welsh Adviser and Secondary Athro Bro. This is to continually refine and develop the provision and raise the standard of Welsh across all key phases, inclusive of post 16.

This training has included, for example, developing pupils' key skills in the context of teaching Welsh as a Second Language, supporting departments in accreditation at Key Stage 4 and post 16 and the use of ICT to raise pupils' standards.

Specific courses on methodology, for example thinking skills and pupils' learning styles, have had a positive impact on classroom practice in teaching Welsh Second Language, judging from the evidence of Estyn surveys, Estyn school reports and ESIS Welsh Adviser reports on individual departments. All Welsh departments are able to receive individual support for specific Welsh Second Language issues from the ESIS Welsh Adviser and Athro Bro.

Recently the Athro Bro has been leading on transition as identified in the Assembly Government document *The Learning Country* and the Estyn document *A Survey of Welsh Second Language in Key Stages 2 and 3 and Transition* (2004). Training and support has been provided by the County Borough to enhance the sharing of information between the primary and secondary sector and to raise standards of pupils' achievement in Welsh Second language.

Since September 1999 all pupils have been given the opportunity to sit an external examination in Welsh as a Second Language by the end of Key Stage 4, and this policy continues to be implemented in accordance with Welsh legislation on education. This provision varies in nature within the County Borough. Some schools offer the Welsh GCSE Full Course as a core subject at Key Stage 4 whilst others provide a mixture of Full and Short Course Welsh Second Language.

Welsh Second Language GCSE

Year	Cohort	Entry	Sat	Number of passes			Percentage of sat		
				A*-A	A*-C	A*-G	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
1999	794	184	183	30	99	178	16.4	54.1	97.3
2001	871	186	186	36	115	184	19.4	61.8	98.9
2003	813	188	188	27	97	187	14.4	51.6	99.5
2004	786	173	173	47	101	170	27.2	58.4	98.3

2005	778	143	143	36	90	143	25.2	62.9	100.0
2006	803	101	100	34	79	100	34.0	79.0	100.0
2007	759	86	86	33	80	86	38.4	93.0	100.0
2008	749	81	81	34	63	81	42.0	77.8	100.0
2009	748	101	100	37	71	92	37.0	71.0	92.0

The LEA has analysed the fall in the number of candidates following the full course since 2005. This fall is consistent with that of other neighbouring authorities and may be related to the change in the nature of the examination in 2005.

Welsh Second Language – GCSE Short Course

Year	Cohort	Entry	Sat	Number of passes			Percentage of sat		
				A*-A	A*-C	A*-G	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
1999	794	9	9	0	2	7	0.0	22.2	77.8
2001	871	136	136	3	47	124	2.2	34.6	91.2
2003	813	178	178	12	56	168	6.7	31.5	94.4
2004	786	86	86	15	47	83	17.4	54.7	96.5
2005	778	123	123	10	68	123	8.1	55.3	100.0
2006	803	157	157	10	96	157	6.4	61.1	100.0
2007	759	215	215	18	92	215	8.4	42.8	100.0
2008	749	228	228	2	68	219	0.9	29.8	96.1
2009	748	223	221	1	61	214	0.5	27.6	96.8

The majority of secondary schools achieve good standards in the full course and accreditation for the majority of the pupils in the short course. The percentage of pupils currently sitting a GCSE Examination in Welsh as a Second language, either Short or Full course is 42.9%. The LEA aims to increase this percentage to 45% by July 2015, as detailed in target 5.2. This will involve monitoring and reviewing the current situation in individual schools and providing continued support through the INSET programme and school visits. The provision for Welsh at Key Stage 4 is to be developed to ensure that all schools meet statutory requirements for Post 14 pupils and accreditation for vocational courses.

10 SCHOOL DEFINITIONS - LINGUISTIC CATEGORIES

- 10.1 In Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council only two linguistic categories of schools exist, being designated Welsh medium schools and English medium schools.
- 10.2 In the Welsh medium schools, all subjects apart from English are taught through the medium of Welsh. No changes to linguistic categories have occurred within the County's schools since 1996. There are two Welsh medium Primary schools: Ysgol Rhyd y Grug and Ysgol Santes Tudful. Welsh is the medium of instruction and assessment from Early Years through to Year 6. The aim of the Welsh medium primary schools is to ensure that all their pupils are bilingual by the age of eleven. To this end, when pupils join the schools at age 3 or 4 they are progressively immersed in the Welsh language. After the child's first term it is expected that all activities will be conducted through the medium of Welsh.
- 10.3 The programme for teaching Welsh as a second language in the English medium schools is described above in Section 9.

11 CURRENT PROVISION

11.1 The Authority's current provision is as follows:

Schools	Teaching medium	Number of schools
Nursery	Welsh	0
	English	3
Infant	Welsh	0
	English	3
Junior	Welsh	0
	English	3
Primary	Welsh	2
	English	18
Secondary	Welsh	(pupils access secondary education within the Rhondda Cynon Taff area) 0
	English	4
Special Schools	Welsh	0
	English	1
Primary SEN Units	Welsh	0
	English	10
Secondary SEN Units	Welsh	0
	English	1
Pupil referral units (Secondary)	Welsh	0
	English	1

11.2 Cross-County Borough Collaboration

As noted above, secondary aged pupils from Merthyr Tydfil attend Ysgol Rhydywaun in Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough.

12. WELSH MEDIUM NURSERY AND EARLY YEARS' EDUCATION

12.1 Convened under the Schools Standards and Framework Act, the Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership has been planning for the provision of pre-school places within the County Borough. The partnership has drawn up the Early Years' and Childcare Development Plan, which outlines how the local authority will meet its responsibilities for early years provision in the future. Copies of the Plan are available from Early Years and Childcare Co-ordinator, Cwm Golau, Integrated Children's Centre, Duffryn Road, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 4BJ.

12.2 Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

The Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) was established in 1998 to represent all those with an interest in early years education, childcare and employment and training opportunities. Its aims are to ensure that early years and childcare provision is developed for all children whose parents need it and to ensure that services are high quality, inclusive and affordable to meet the needs of all communities within the County Borough. The EYDCP has representation from the private, voluntary and statutory sectors including Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (see targets 1 and 2).

There are currently five Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) registered Welsh medium pre-school providers across the County Borough. Cylchoedd Meithrin provide sessional care and cater for children aged 2- 2 ½ years up until they attend school. Cylch Meithrin Twyn Carmel is approved and funded as a Flying Start setting and offers free part time childcare for 2 year olds. It is anticipated that there will be a further 2 new Cylchoedd Meithrin developed during

the period 2010- 2015. This will total approximately 32 new pre-school places (see target 1.1). New provision will take into consideration recommendations from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, in addition to responding to identified gaps in provision and local demand. It will be important that existing provision is considered to ensure sustainability and avoid displacement of provision. It is the aim of the EYDCP to ensure at least 1 pre-school in every community. The EYDCP has planned for an even geographical spread of English and Welsh medium settings across the County Borough.

The Childcare Act 2006 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide sufficient childcare. Sufficiency will be measured in relation to 3 specific areas; one of the areas is the sufficiency of Welsh Medium provision. This statutory duty was introduced in April 2008, and sufficiency is measured via an extensive audit of parental demand in addition to looking at current supply alongside occupancy levels.

There are several strategies in place to facilitate the creation of new places and ensure quality and sustainability of existing provision. These include:

- continued financial investment support via Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (MYM)
- capital and revenue start up grants for new providers;
- Sustainability grants for existing providers
- Comprehensive training programme for early years practitioners
- Support to undertake Quality Assurance kitemark (inc Merthyr Tydfil Quality Assurance scheme)
- Side by Side Assisted Places scheme: and
- Early years education in the non-maintained sector.

In April 2007, the Welsh Assembly Government introduced the new Flying Start Initiative, one strand of this programme is to fund part-time childcare places in targeted geographical areas. The EYDCP aims to ensure that parents are provided with a choice to attend either Welsh or English medium pre-school provision.

The strategic aims and outcomes of the EYDCP form part of the Children and Young People's Plan. Core Aim 1 of the CYPP is that *Children and young people have a Flying Start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development*

12.3 The Relationship between the LEA and the Voluntary Sector

The voluntary sector is a key stakeholder in the delivery of the EYDCP and associated targets. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin receives funding from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to deliver specific outcomes relating to the support and development of the Welsh medium pre-school and Ti and Fi sectors (see targets 1.1 - 1.4).

12.4 Numbers attending Welsh medium Nursery Groups/Classes

The number of children (full time equivalent) attending Welsh medium nursery classes maintained by the LEA is as follows:

School	Capacity (full time equivalent)	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Ysgol Rhyd y Grug	30	30	30	22	22	19	25	22	24	25
Ysgol Santes Tudful	30	24.5	24.5	24.5	27.5	26.5	33.5	29.5	29	30.5
% continuing in Welsh medium primary schools		100	100	97	100	100	100	98.5	100	100

Attendance at Cylchoedd Meithrin can fluctuate throughout the year. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin monitors attendance at the groups and this information is reported to the Welsh Language Board on a quarterly basis.

Academic Year 2008-2009 (latest year for which detailed figures are available)

Name of Nursery Class or Cylch Meithrin	Receives funding for 3years+	Capacity	Number of children attended nursery	Percentage transferred to Welsh-medium schools
Aberfan	No	18	13	50%
Cefn Coed	No	24	52	28%
Pentrebach	Yes	26	40	83%
Treharris	No	16	25	71%
Twyn Carmel	No	20	13	38%

The EYDCP has made financial support available to ensure there is parental choice and early years' education is available in the non-maintained sector. To date one Cylch Meithrin has registered as an approved EYDCP educational provider. Representatives from MYM are on the Quality Early Years Panel that has the responsibility for assessing new applications. It is intended that parental choice and accessibility of Welsh medium early years' education will be increased once non-maintained providers become approved. A target of 1 additional provider to achieve early years' education status has been set (target 1.2).

An Advisory Teacher advises and supports pre-school settings on matters relating to quality and curriculum. The Advisory Teacher is not a Welsh speaker but works very closely with colleagues in Cylchoedd Meithrin via the medium of English.

12.5 Challenges encountered with the Provision

Merthyr Tydfil has the third lowest levels of early years and childcare provision in Wales, despite support structures being established, 3 Cylch Meithrin have closed since 2004. The main issues hindering the sector has been the lack of suitable premises and the lack of suitably qualified experienced staff, difficulty in forming and maintaining voluntary management committees, affordability and sustainability. .

Some existing pre-school groups have also struggled with low occupancy levels. MYM has attempted to address this via various marketing strategies and some progress has been made

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin have been proactive in developing new Ti a Fi groups in an attempt to increase take up in Cylchoedd Meithrin..

The following table shows the current provision in terms of Ti a Fi groups:

Name of Cylch	Location
Cylch Ti a Fi Merthyr	Zoar Hall, Pontmorlais
Cylch Ti a Fi Treharris	St Mathias Church Hall
Cylch Ti a Fi Pentrebach	ICC Pentrebach
Cylch Ti a Fi Gurnos	Busy Bees Centre
Cylch Ti a Fi Aberfan	Aberfan
Cylch Ti a Fi Bedlinog	Bedlinog Resource Centre
Cylch Ti a Fi Twyncarmel	Clwyd y Fagwr, Twyncarmel
Cylch Ti a Fi Dowlais	Dowlais Library

12.6 Welsh-medium/Bilingual Training

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council aims to ensure that all pupils have access to and receive high quality education and to this end it has ensured that all teachers and classroom assistants responsible for the support and teaching of Welsh second language have the necessary knowledge and skills required to support children's learning. In the early years in English-medium schools, with the forthcoming introduction of the Foundation Phase, the emphasis is to continue to improve and reinforce the linguistic skills of classroom teachers and support staff. The LEA in conjunction with ESIS, its advisory service, and the Athrawon Bro team has supported the successful development of Welsh second language within early years settings in schools through individual teacher and school support, including good practice guidance materials for nursery and reception classes.

An audit of training needs is carried out with all schools and voluntary groups on an annual basis. This information is used to assist in sharing good practice between the voluntary and maintained sectors and to inform the training schedule for each academic year. The training needs analysis has identified Welsh as a high priority training need. 'Friendly Welsh' training courses have been planned by the EYDCP for the 2007/8 Academic Year and six week courses are available to Early Years Practitioners in the voluntary and maintained sectors. Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is delivering NVQ level 3 in childcare and education training; this has proved to be an area of success in an attempt to address the significant shortage of Welsh speaking level 3 childcare workers (target 1.4).

12.7 Children with Special Educational Needs

The Welsh-medium special needs support service Law Yn Llaw offer families with children of pre-school age with special needs, the choice of a place within their local pre-school or day nursery. The scheme assists with providing one to one support, transport, fees and special equipment where required. Currently, funding is provided via Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Flying Start to support children with physical, emotional and behavioural needs. In 2008, the scheme helped over twenty children in Merthyr Tydfil to access pre-school provision. An evaluation of the scheme was recently undertaken and this will be used to assess the effectiveness of the programme and to ensure it meets the needs of local families and providers. One of the key issues is the lack of available support staff which in some cases results in providers being unable to accept children.

12.8 Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP)

The LEA works closely with the Early Years' and Childcare Partnership to ensure greater equality of access to early years education for all children. Since its establishment in 1998, the EYDCP has experienced a shared sense of commitment and purpose to improve access to quality early years and childcare services. The strong partnership effort has one ultimate aim: to ensure that all our children have the best possible start in life and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

12.9 Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre

Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre became operational in April 2005. Extensive early years and childcare provision is available at the Centre. A 26 place CSSIW registered Welsh medium pre-school group has been established and is running at almost full capacity. To meet with parental demand the Cylch Meithrin with the support of the EYDCP has expanded into wrap around provision and offers a collection service from Ysgol Santes Tydfil. The Cylch Meithrin at Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre has achieved Early Years Education status and will be inspected by Estyn during the Summer Term 2010. . Two Cylchoedd Meithrin have achieved the

Cylch Rhagorol Quality Assurance kitemark. A Cylch Ti a Fi also runs one session a week from the Centre.

12.10 Early Years and the Children and Young People's Plan

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's –Children and Young People's Plan incorporates the Early Years' Development Plan. Information relevant to the Welsh-medium education scheme can be found in:

Core Aim 1: Children and young people have a flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development

- *Ensure the sustainability, quality and accessibility of our early years and child care provision, including our Welsh medium childcare provision;*

A copy of the Children and Young People's Plan 2008-11 can be obtained by contacting the Head of Planning Partnership, Governance, Inclusion and School Support, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD.

13 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY EDUCATION

13.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has a total of 4 infant schools, 4 junior schools and 19 primary schools, 2 of which are Welsh medium primary schools which follow the Welsh Programme of Study for Key Stage 1 (KS1) and Key Stage 2 (KS2). These schools have four core subjects at KS2 and teach all subjects with the exception of English through the medium of Welsh. English is not taught at KS1 in Welsh medium schools, although some schools do introduce the subject towards the end of year 2. The remaining schools are English medium and study Welsh second language as a subject at KS1 and KS2 for approximately 1 hour 20 minutes a week. All schools have a policy and a Scheme of work for the subject and are regularly supported by ESIS, the Authority's advisory service.

The Curriculum Cymreig is a common requirement in the National Curriculum in Wales. All Welsh and English medium schools pupils are given opportunities to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales across the curriculum. ESIS the Authority's advisory service, has produced an exemplar policy for Curriculum Cymreig, which is available to all schools. INSET courses on this aspect are also available and the advisory teachers for Welsh work closely with advisory teachers in other subjects to deliver courses and produce relevant guidance and materials.

13.2 Language Continuum

Detailed arrangements are in place to ensure an effective language continuum between key stages. Inspection reports on schools within the LEA have highlighted the effectiveness of overall transition arrangements. In Welsh medium primary schools detailed discussions on the progress of individual pupils about to transfer from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 take place between Year 2 and Year 3 teachers. In some schools Year 2 pupils spend time during the latter half of the summer term with the Year 3 teacher. This helps prepare the ground for the transition to using both languages in Key Stage 2.

In Welsh Second Language, advisory staff coordinate regular meetings between teachers in primary and secondary schools to facilitate smooth transition between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 in teaching and learning the language. In collaboration with schools, advisory staff have developed a series of bridging units as an integral part of these transition arrangements.

Transition will continue to be important when the Foundation Phase is implemented. There will be a need for schools to continue to work closely with the non-maintained sector to ensure an effective continuum of language as pupils move from non-maintained settings into schools. Information on

transition between Welsh medium pre-schools and Welsh medium schools can be found in Section 12.4.

13.3 Assessment

In Welsh medium primary schools pupils' progress is assessed through Welsh in all areas of the curriculum except English. Considerable emphasis is placed on assessing the development of pupils' oracy in Welsh. Some schools make use of ACCAC optional assessment materials, especially at Key Stage 1.

The ESIS schemes of work for Welsh second language which are in use in the vast majority of schools include assessment materials after each unit of work. Assessment materials such as these complement and contribute to ongoing teacher assessment.

13.4 Latecomers

At present no specific services are provided by the Authority to primary schools for Welsh language latecomers, other than the general support for Welsh language learning provided by the Athrawon Bro.

13.5 Provision of places

As a result of falling number of pupils, the LEA has not faced any difficulties in providing sufficient places in Welsh medium primary schools since 1996. Section 13.6 below describes the additional accommodation that has been provided. The two Welsh medium primary schools serve clearly-defined catchment areas, an arrangement which ensures pupils are able to receive Welsh medium education within or close to their home community.

The geographical size of their catchment areas, however, means that some pupils have to travel a greater distance to school than those in most English medium schools.

13.6 Vacant places

The following tables give the standard numbers and the number of vacant places in each of the Welsh medium primary schools since 1999:

School	Year	Admission number	Surplus places
Ysgol Santes Tudful	1999	55	-10
	2000		7
	2001		18
	2002		38
	2003		36
	2004		59
	2005		56
	2006		62
	2007		62 (unchanged with new capacity assessment)
	2008		55
	2009	55	50
	2010	55	51

School	Year	Admission number	Surplus places
Ysgol Rhyd y Grug	1999	30	-5
	2000		8
	2001		19
	2002		10
	2003		16
	2004		22
	2005		52
	2006		54
	2007		66 (with revised capacity assessment 31)
	2008	26	41
	2009	26	27
	2010	26	37

The Welsh Assembly Government has recently revised the method of calculating the capacity of a school. The new guidance reflects the space and support facilities required within schools to meet the needs of teaching and learning in the 21st Century.

13.7 Buildings

Since 1996, the Welsh medium primary schools within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough have received capital investment in order to improve the facilities by means of adaptations, refurbishments or extensions.

An extension was provided at Ysgol Santes Tudful in order to improve early years' accommodation. As part of the authority's commitment to delivering quality school buildings (target 3.1b), Ysgol Santes Tudful moved to new premises in Spring 2009. The authority has also continued to invest in the school building at Ysgol Rhyd y Grug providing new toilets, windows and redecoration. However, the school building has some areas it is difficult to bring up to the desired standard such as a small hall and no playing fields. As a result, Ysgol Rhyd y Grug will move to a new site in Aberfan for September 2010.

14 **SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE CAREERS SERVICE AND YOUTH SERVICES**

14.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council does not have a Welsh-medium secondary school; Welsh-medium secondary provision is provided by Rhondda Cynon Taf. Pupils attend Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun for their secondary education through the medium of Welsh. The County Borough is currently transporting 404 pupils from Merthyr Tydfil to Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. In Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun every subject is taught through the medium of Welsh, other than English as a subject in Key Stages 3 and 4. There are four English medium secondary schools in Merthyr Tydfil where all subjects are taught through the medium of English and Welsh is taught as a second language in Key Stages 3 and 4 to all pupils including pupils with special educational needs.

The Cwricwlwm Cymreig is a common requirement in the National Curriculum for learners up to the age of 14 and is part of the basis of the curriculum in all schools. Post 14 learners should have opportunities for active engagement in understanding the political, social, economic and cultural aspects of Wales as part of the world as a whole. All secondary schools are aware of the need to create a Welsh ethos within their schools to include Welsh signage and use of Welsh during the school day where possible. All schools offer a wide variety of extra curricular activities to raise pupils' awareness of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

14.2 Transition

Since the LEA's inception, the County Borough Council has sought to work closely with all phases of education in order to gain continuity of provision and in pupils' learning so that effective practice can be more readily shared between, for example the primary and secondary sector. Certainly, the 'social' aspect of transition is effective within the Welsh and English medium sector with close links developed around clusters of schools. The LEA is developing and securing as far as possible, a seamless and progressive provision, in terms of the curriculum and teaching methods.

In line with the Single Education Plan Priority to *Improve curriculum support and enhancement and broaden opportunities for learning* the LEA has undertaken an audit of Key Stage 2/3 to identify current best practice and areas for development in all primary and secondary schools. The LEA will now share the recommendations and outcomes from the Transition Audit to secure action and development with the School Improvement Group and Headteachers' Forum (see target 4.1).

The percentages of pupils who received Welsh medium primary education and who continued into Welsh medium secondary education annually since 2002 are outlined in the table below. These pupils have transferred to Ysgol Rhydywaun (pupils that failed to transfer moved from the area).

	Total number of pupils	No transferred to Welsh medium education	Percentage
2002	71	71	100%
2003	85	83	97.6%
2004	77	77	100%
2005	56	54	96.4%
2006	63	62	98.4%
2007	68	62	91.2%
2008	80	80	100%
2009	66	63	95.5%

The number of Welsh medium primary pupils transferring to secondary education at Ysgol Rhydywaun will continue to be monitored and assessed against current rates of transfer.

There is a close working relationship between Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun and the two Welsh medium primary schools on both the pastoral and curriculum level. There are statutory transition plans in place to assist continuity and progression of all pupils transferring from the primary phase. As part of the statutory transition plan, standards of attainment and assessment information is transferred to the secondary sector. Year 6 pupils from Ysgol Santes Tudful and Ysgol Rhyd y Grug visit Ysgol Rhydywaun in February, May and June in a programme that involves ICT, Technology and awareness sessions. During their first term at Ysgol Rhydywaun Year 7 pupils take part in a transition programme and a residential language course. The vast majority of pupils continue their Welsh medium education from the primary to the secondary sector.

The Secondary Athro Bro has worked with all school clusters to develop a culture of sharing of information regarding pupils' achievement in Welsh Second Language and to share good practice between the primary and secondary sector teachers. Some schools use the Welsh Second Language bridging unit *Bobol Bach* to link work between Year 6 and Year 7. Effective transition will continue to be supported in order to ensure the continued raising of standards in both Welsh and Welsh Second Language.

14.3 Assessment

At present, there is no formal assessment of pupils' bilingual skills in English medium schools. At Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun a pupil centred assessment scheme has been established which records the progress of each pupil regularly using continuous assessment methods. An integral part of the

assessment scheme will be the process of continually sharing information with the pupil in relation to the aims and objectives of the work, the assessment criteria and the process of setting targets for further progress. Pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun regularly adopt translanguaging skills using English materials as a basis for oral and written responses. Every opportunity is given for pupils to display their abilities to work in both languages but this is not formally assessed. Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun teaches and assesses all subjects (apart from English) through the medium of Welsh.

14.4 Latecomers

There has been no demand for transfer from English medium to Welsh medium schools to date and as a result there are no specific supplementary activities or services provided by the LEA for Welsh language latecomers. However, should the need arise the Welsh advisory team would provide additional support to assist latecomers to integrate according to demand and needs of individual schools.

14.5 Provision of Places

As at March 2010 there were 398 pupils from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council attending Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This school opened in 1995 with 114 pupils in Year 7 and currently has 960 pupils aged 11-18 with a total capacity of 1024 pupils.

14.6 Additional Services

The LEA provides careers education and advice in partnership with Careers Wales. Careers Wales has a working Welsh Language Policy with all relevant materials and publications to support students in both Welsh and English. The careers adviser for Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun is bilingual and based at the school.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Youth Learning Opportunities Division (YALO) recommends that Youth and Community staff continue to provide training through the medium of Welsh. In Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Youth Community Education Officers are required to introduce and develop the principles contained within the Wales Youth Agency and Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services document, *Opening Both Doors* and include them in their own Operational Plans and centre programmes.

15 **POST 16 PROVISION**

15.1 All post 16 pupils are able to receive a Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun and access to the sixth form is open to all. A wide range of courses are offered, including AS, A Level, Vocational A Levels and NVQs Level 2 and 3. Pupils are able to choose from 30 courses which as well as AS/A2 level courses also includes vocational provision through the medium of Welsh.

POST 16 COURSES AT YSGOL GYFUN RHYDYWAUN SEPTEMBER 2009	
Art	Welsh
Geography	Drama
French	Music
History	Information Technology
English	Physical Education
Spanish	Biology
Chemistry	Physics
Key Skills - Language	Business Studies
Key Skills – Numeracy	CACHE
Key Skills - IT	NOCN

Sociology	Sports Leadership
Mathematics	Food Science
Law	Psychology
Technology	Religious Studies
Travel and Tourism	Graphics and Materials
Health and Social Care	Office Skills

The 14-19 Network Options gives young people the opportunity to broaden their options and provide them with a chance to study a wide range of subjects. Pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun have some school courses offered on a consortia basis with other Welsh-medium secondary schools. This enables pupils to study them at an alternative school within the consortia if they are not available at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. The development of the 14-19 network includes:

- The participation of all young people in all aspects of the development and maintaining of Learning Pathways (formal, non formal and informal).
- Expanding the consortia partnerships to deliver wider choice.
- Seeking to increase provision through the medium of Welsh.

16 ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

16.1 The policy on meeting special educational needs is that all children and young people, wherever practicable, should be educated with others of their own age in mainstream schools, with additional support provided where necessary. The entire process of drawing up a SEN Statement, including all the documentation is offered to parents/guardians in Welsh, English or bilingually at the start of the statutory assessment process. Further information is available from the Head of School Improvement and Additional Learning Needs, Schools, Governance and Technical Services, Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD.

16.2 2002 SEN Code of Practice for Wales

The Authority has regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales and seeks to meet the special educational needs of all of its pupils, including those pupils who are bilingual and/or studying in the medium of Welsh. Where a pupil has significant learning difficulties, requiring placement in a special school, the LEA undertakes an assessment under the 1996 Education Act to determine the pupil's level of need. Where communication is a major part of the pupil's learning difficulties, alternative communication systems are recommended eg signing, Makaton, and these would be made available in Welsh and English. Pupils in the special school follow the national curriculum and would therefore receive Welsh language teaching but no pupil currently receives formal assessment through the medium of Welsh.

16.3 Special Schools or Units

Where a pupil has significant behavioural difficulties requiring placement in the Pupil Referral Unit, the pupil may attend on a part time basis only, thus ensuring his or her continued teaching through the Welsh medium in his/her mainstream school.

If a pupil was excluded from school and required home tuition, or if home tuition was to be provided on medical grounds, the materials for teaching a child at home are provided through the school which the child has attended. If the child has attended Welsh medium school he/she would have access to the same materials as he/she has in school. A number of home tutors are able to teach through the medium of Welsh.

16.4 Welsh medium Provision

There are Welsh speaking members of the LEA's Special Needs Service (within the joint Educational Psychology Service with Rhondda Cynon Taff). The professional staff can contribute to the assessment of the special educational needs of children through the medium of Welsh, in line with their professional roles and responsibilities and the special educational needs Code of Practice, and then offer advice, guidance and support in delivering appropriate special educational provision.

The entire process of drawing up a SEN Statement, including all the documentation is offered to parents/guardians in Welsh, English or bilingually at the start of the statutory assessment process.

16.5 Residential Locations

Currently there are no pupils placed in residential locations that request Welsh medium provision.

16.6 Learning Support Assistants

If pupils have special educational needs or complex medical conditions, which require the support of learning or care assistant, Welsh speaking staff are recruited to the post.

16.7 Athrawon Bro and Advisory Services

Pupils with SEN receive appropriate programmes through their own school's SENCO.

16.8 Welsh-medium Education for Pupils with SEN Statements

There are a small number of pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs in the Authority's Welsh medium schools (0.18% of the Welsh medium primary school population).

Should Welsh-medium support be required at a comprehensive school within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Welsh speaking staff would be recruited as required.

16.9 English-medium Education for Pupils with SEN Statements

There are three pupils from the authority who are in English medium schools and who come from homes where at least one parent/guardian speaks Welsh.

16.10 Access to speech and language therapy

Access to speech and language therapy through the medium of Welsh for pupils with communication disorders is arranged by North Glamorgan NHS Trust. This trust is aware of its responsibilities under the Welsh Language Act and wherever possible will provide Welsh speaking therapists.

17 SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

17.1 The Council has designated catchment areas for the two Welsh medium primary schools. The catchment areas have been based on natural community boundaries and there is a natural north-south division in the County Borough Council. Pupils in the northern part of the County Borough Council attend Ysgol Santes Tudful, and those in the southern part attend Ysgol Rhyd y Grug.

17.2 Admissions are arranged in accordance with the Authority's Admission Arrangements which places residence within the catchment area as the highest priority. The Authority's Admission Arrangements can be viewed on-line at www.merthyr.gov.uk or is available from Pupil Services, Governance, Inclusion and School Support, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD, Tel 01685 724607. Parents have the right to express

a preference, which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. There are surplus places in both Welsh medium schools at present but if a school were oversubscribed, preference would still be considered but the criteria for admission, as set by the Authority, would be applied.

17.3 If the authority was unable to comply with parental preference the statutory appeals process would be followed. The Council's Legal services would arrange an Appeal Hearing and an Independent Appeals Panel would consider each case individually.

18 TRANSPORT POLICY

18.1 The Authority has a statutory duty to provide pupils of compulsory school age with free transport to the relevant school if they reside beyond the "walking distance" to that school. The law relating to "walking distance", as defined by a House of Lords ruling, is two miles for pupils under eight years of age and three miles for all other pupils. The Authority has agreed to define these distances as 1½ miles for pupils in primary, junior and infant schools and two miles for secondary age (including Post 16) pupils. The distance measured is the nearest available walking route.

18.2 The longest distances that the primary and secondary pupils have to travel is:

Secondary	Welsh medium	13 miles	<i>All these pupils qualify for free transport</i>
	English medium	7 miles	
Primary	Welsh medium	4 miles	
	English medium	8 miles	

19 FUNDING POLICY FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

19.1 Delegated School Budgets

The current formula used to distribute delegated funds to schools in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council recognises the additional requirements of Welsh medium schools by allocating additional resources to each school. The additional allocations have been £4,200 per school (2009-10 financial year) and £4242 per school (2010-2011 financial year).

19.2 Specific Grant Funding

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is also able to secure other funding through grants made by external organisations for the development of the Welsh language in schools. These are:

- **Better Schools Fund** In 2010-2011 within the overall allocation made to the Authority by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Council through Activity 5, is able to spend £79,460 upon Welsh education in both English and Welsh medium schools.
- **Welsh Language Board Grant** The Council is also able to spend £54,463 (2010-2011) upon the development of the Welsh language in schools by accessing specific grant from the Welsh Language Board. This is used in the main to fund a team of Athrawon Bro whose primary purpose is to provide support in the promotion of Welsh and Welsh second language education.

20 ATHRAWON BRO SERVICE AND THE ADVISORY SERVICE

20.1 Support for Welsh and Welsh second language teaching is provided by the ESIS Welsh adviser and the Welsh advisory teachers, the Athrawon Bro. In addition, Welsh-speaking ESIS primary advisers support the two Welsh medium primary schools in consultation with Merthyr Tydfil

LEA. The Athrawon Bro team is funded by the Welsh Language Board based upon an annual bid. This financial support is match-funded at a rate of 25% by the authority. An annual report of both financial and linguistic provision is made available to the Welsh Language Board outlining the work of the Athrawon Bro team during each academic year.

20.2 At present the team comprises:

Primary Second Language	8 Advisory teachers (includes Senior Athro Bro)
Primary First Language	1 Advisory teacher
Total	9 Advisory teachers / Athrawon Bro

20.3 Athrawon Bro Primary First and Second Language

According to need, clusters within the Authority will benefit from:

- support for school self evaluation focusing on Welsh First / Second language;
- support for development planning for Welsh;
- review and advice on resourcing;
- review and development of staff competence in the Welsh language by auditing staff experience and expertise and focusing on classroom support for improving practice;
- review of provision;
- review of pupils' standards of achievement.

20.4 The Athrawon Bro team is line-managed by the ESIS Welsh Adviser with the Senior Primary Athro Bro responsible for the Primary Second Language Athrawon Bro team. The ESIS Welsh Adviser and Athrawon Bro team are based at Ty Dysgu, Treforest. The aims of the Athrawon Bro team are to:

- raise the standards of achievement in Welsh both first and second language;
- develop teachers' skills in Welsh in both language sectors; and
- support teaching and learning strategies.

20.5 Athrawon Bro Primary First and Second Language

All schools within the authority receive a basic entitlement, which includes three visits per academic year. During these visits the Athro / Athrawes Fro will:

- support for school self evaluation focusing on Welsh First / Second language;
- support for development planning for Welsh;
- review and advice on resourcing;
- review and develop staff competence in the Welsh language by auditing staff experience and expertise and focusing on classroom support for improving practice;
- review of provision;
- review of pupils' standards of achievement.

In addition, the Athrawes Fro Iaith Gyntaf provides:

- Support for newly qualified teachers (NQTs);
- Analysis of National Curriculum assessment outcomes;

- Evaluation of planning and curriculum provision;
- Support for new co-ordinators;
- Support for special projects.

To ensure that effective use is made of the Athrawon Bro team, the Welsh adviser, link advisers and Senior Athro Bro review performance and arrange monitoring visits throughout each academic year.

Pupils are given the opportunity to attend residential courses to support and enrich their knowledge of the Welsh language. A three day residential course is provided for Year 7 and 8 pupils. This focuses on oral work and uses immersion methodology. In addition a course is provided to help prepare pupils in Year 12 for their A level examinations.

20.6 Courses and Activities (Welsh as a First Language)

A full list of relevant courses available can be found at ESIS website (www.esis.org.uk)

20.7 Courses and Activities (Welsh as a Second Language)

A full list of relevant courses available can be found at ESIS website (www.esis.org.uk)

20.8 Other Subjects

In addition to Welsh language support, the ESIS Advisory team is able to offer support for specific subjects through the medium of Welsh, for example music, religious education, geography and physical education. In addition, the Authority, through its service level agreement with the Welsh Joint Education Committee's National Language Unit of Wales, can call upon the expertise of Assistant Trainers to support Welsh medium schools.

20.9 Difficulties

Difficulties are sometimes experienced in appointing suitably qualified teaching and support in the Welsh medium sector. This is also true when there is a need for supply cover in Welsh medium education or Welsh departments in secondary schools for teachers to attend INSET courses or to cover for short term illness. The Authority works closely with partners in schools, local communities, higher education and supply agencies to overcome some of these difficulties. This is an issue of national importance to move the Welsh agenda forward.

21 LANGUAGE CENTRES

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council does not operate language centres. See sections 13.4 and 14.4 for further information.

22 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS ABOUT WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

22.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council produces an annual Guide to Policy and Admission Arrangements for parents, which lists information on all maintained and voluntary aided schools in the Authority and provides details of Council policies. There is a section outlining the linguistic nature and admission arrangements of the Welsh medium schools.

22.2 The Council produces and distributes leaflets and posters about Early Years education annually. Bilingual preference forms are sent to parents with details of maintained provision in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for early years education; and to parents of children in Year

6 prior to their transfer to secondary school. Important dates in the admissions cycle appear in the current Guide.

22.3 If parents are unable to obtain a place at their preferred school they may appeal to an Appeal Committee, which is arranged by, but is independent of the Council.

23 TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

23.1 Bilingual material is available for governors at all their meetings and bilingual training documentation and courses are supplied.

23.2 Translation services are available on request. Governors are informed of this service by School Support Officers and the service is usually employed for interviews and documentation.

23.3 Simultaneous translation facilities are available whenever requested. Governors from Welsh medium Schools have elected to train with colleagues from neighbouring schools, and through the medium of English.

24 STAFFING AND RECRUITMENT

24.1 Recruitment advertisements for all posts are bilingual. Posts which are designated as those where full bilingual skills are desirable are described as such in advertisements

24.2 Within the County Borough Council, departments that have contact with the public should with intensive/internal training have sufficient and appropriately skilled Welsh speakers to ensure that it is possible to provide the service described in the Welsh Language Scheme through the medium of Welsh.

24.3 Members of staff (and Councillors) are encouraged to attend appropriate courses aimed at facilitating their use of Welsh with the public at work (and with their colleagues) according to the requirements of their jobs and to assist in the implementation of the scheme. Learners' progress is carefully monitored. Learners are encouraged to apply for recognised qualifications such as NVQ, and to seek the opportunity of promotion due to their enhanced linguistic ability.

25 COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND BASIC SKILLS

25.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council produces publicity information, leaflets and brochures bilingually. A stock of reading materials is available for adults when the need arises.

25.2 Welsh language courses for adults are provided by the Welsh Language Consortium at Merthyr College and by the Welsh Centre for Adults at Glamorgan University.

25.3 Basic skills courses are provided in the Welsh medium primary schools. Schemes are set up at the start of each academic year aimed at parents of Reception Class pupils.

26 LINKS WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

26.1 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council has close working relations with Rhondda Cynon Taff, Bridgend and Caerphilly County Borough Councils. The advisory service ESIS which includes the Athrawon Bro team serves all four County Boroughs. This allows for sharing of information and expertise in Welsh first and second language. Consultation is regularly undertaken between officers of this Authority and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council regarding the provision of Welsh medium secondary education, admission arrangements and Welsh Education Schemes.

26.2 Urdd Gobaith Cymru

Urdd Gobaith Cymru works with all age groups in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in both first and second language Welsh. The aim of their work is to give children and young people an opportunity to speak Welsh in an informal and out of school environment. A wide range of activities is available to primary school children. These include sporting competitions, opportunities to visit the residential camp at Llangrannog, school holiday activities and an annual Jamboree attracting over 1,000 children.

Secondary pupils are given the opportunity to attend the Urdd's residential camp in Glan-Ilyn as well as other educational visits. Welsh/Urdd clubs are set up at lunch times or after school to enhance pupils' language expertise.

26.3 Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin

Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin is represented on the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.

26.4 Basic Skills

The Basic Skills Agency provides funding to support a number of very effective initiatives involving Welsh-medium schools and settings throughout the County Borough. These include: Strategic Intervention Grant; Primary and Secondary Quality Mark for School; and Family Literacy Programme.

26.5 Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP)

SNAP Cymru's mission statement is to empower families (parents, carers, children and young people) to have their voices heard within the areas of special educational needs and support them to influence policy and practice in the planning and delivery services at both local and national levels. SNAP Cymru is able to deliver services through the medium of Welsh.

26.6 Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)

Formal links have been established between the Authority and RhAG and this involves regular meetings.

27 MONITORING

27.1 The implementation of the Scheme at Authority level will be monitored by:

Director, Schools, Governance and Technical Services;
Education Service Board Manager, Governance, Inclusion and School Support;
The Welsh Medium Task Group (a groups of Head teachers, advisory staff and partners);
and
Welsh Adviser, ESIS.

The Welsh Education Scheme will form part of a comprehensive series of policies and plans that will form the basis of the work of the LEA and its schools. Monitoring the quality and implementation of the Scheme at school level will form part of the general arrangements for monitoring services, including:

- planning Welsh medium education for the future
- monitoring the teaching and implementation of the Curriculum
- organising and providing Welsh medium support services for schools
- monitoring the implementation of the Scheme's timetable
- consulting with schools, the public and with other parties with an interest in Welsh education

- monitoring the frequency and nature of complaints in regard to the Scheme.

Monitoring the Scheme will be a structured and ongoing activity using the methods based on evidence already in use to monitor the Authority's other activities. Suggestions for improvements will be welcome. The authority will provide the Welsh Language Board with an annual report in a form approved by the Board. The report will describe progress in terms of implementing the Scheme's measures against the approved timetable, and will analyse the nature and extent of any complaints, suggestions and amendments put forward by the public.

The Director, Schools, Governance and Technical Services, will be responsible for monitoring complaints with regard to the Authority's Welsh Education Scheme, and these will be responded to in accordance with the Authority's Complaints Procedure.

The Director, Schools, Governance and Technical Services, will make arrangements to ensure that specific annual reports are drawn up on performance, and will prepare a report on the department's performance in relation to fulfilling its commitments. This report will be submitted to the Council and will also be available to the public.

The Authority will welcome and note any suggestions made by the public on improvements to its services. Any member of the public who wishes to propose improvements should contact:

The Director, Schools, Governance and Technical Services, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Ty Keir Hardie, Avenue de Clichy, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8XD.

28 TARGETS AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

28.1 The 2010 - 2015 Welsh Education Scheme reflects the strategic approach adopted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. The targets included in the Welsh Education Scheme corroborate the targets and policies outlined in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Single Education Plan and subsequent Children's and Young People's Plan.

28.2 The implementation of the Welsh Education Scheme 2010 - 2015 will be regularly measured against the target dates as outlined in the following timetable. A five-year period of implementation has been set, between 2010 and 2015.

28.3 The authority will consider the financial implications of any measure where additional funds are needed, and will forward plan financially and strategically to meet the Scheme's targets. The timetable will be reviewed and assessed annually, in discussion with the Welsh Language Board following the submission of an annual report on the implementation of the Scheme to the Board. If any additions or amendments are proposed to the timetable or targets, they will be discussed with the Welsh Language Board prior to their implementation.

TABLES FOR THE SCHEME'S TARGETS

Target	Timetable with planning and implementation measures	Date for reaching target
<p>1 EARLY YEARS (see section 12) 1. Continue to provide high quality part time Welsh medium education for pupils under the age of 5.</p>	<p>Develop co-operative arrangements with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin through the Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) and the Flying Start Programme through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of an equal opportunities task group to consider, as part of its terms of reference, equal opportunity in relation to Welsh-medium education; • work with Welsh medium voluntary sector to increase number of Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales registered Cylch Meithrins • Provide access to a comprehensive training programme to develop staff's bilingual skills and respond to any initiatives promoted by the WAG to develop bilingualism. • Continue to work with Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to promote the Cam Wrth Gam Level 3 qualification 	<p>2010 and ongoing through to 2015</p> <p>2 further providers to be registered by 2015 32 new childcare places to be created by 2015</p> <p>2010</p>
<p>2. Continue to provide Welsh medium early years' provision within the Welsh medium primary schools and the non maintained sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of LEA Funding of nursery classes at Ysgol Santes Tudful and Ysgol Rhyd-y-Grug; • Work with non maintained Welsh medium sector to become approved EYDCP educational providers. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>1 provider to be accredited by 2012</p>
<p>3. Develop opportunities in Welsh culture and language in all early years' settings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To offer practical support to the Early Years' Development and Childcare Partnership in developing programmes to enhance opportunities for the introduction of Welsh culture and language within all early years' settings; • Maximise the introduction of bilingualism as a key area of learning within the Foundation Phase through work and support to EYDCP 	<p>From 2010 ongoing and evaluated each year</p> <p>2010- ongoing</p>
<p>4. To continue through the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (EYDCP) to work with MYM.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MYM Officer to attend EYDCP and relevant sub groups – monthly and quarterly; • Quarterly monitoring meetings with MYM and MTCBC Early Years Team to monitor delivery and address any issues • Funding from EYDCP for Early Years' staff to attend training; 	<p>Monthly and Quarterly</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and guidance will be provided for staff of all Cylchoedd Meithrin on the implementation of the Foundation Phase; • Monthly EYDCP information updates to Cylch Meithrin to ensure good practice is shared; • Promotion and development of Early Years Education in Cylchoedd Meithrin – target to establish 1 registered provider. 	<p>2010- ongoing</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>2012</p>
<p>2 BRIDGING BETWEEN EARLY YEARS' AND WELSH MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS (see section 12.4)</p> <p>1. Ensure that all of those children who received Welsh medium education during the early years are able to access Welsh medium education in the primary phase.</p> <p>2. Ensure standards of attainment are retained on transfer to the primary phase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authority, through the work of the Early Years' Development and Childcare partnership, will continue to monitor and evaluate parental demand and availability of early years' places within the Welsh medium sector each year. • The Early Years' / Key Stage 1 Support Officer, MYM Development Officer and Meithrin Leaders to continue to liaise with / develop links between MYM groups and primary schools. • Early Years' / Key Stage 1 Officer, MYM Development Officer and headteachers to monitor links between settings and primary schools. • Early Years / Key Stage 1 Officer to evaluate continuity and progression through analysis of Estyn inspection reports. • Primary school headteachers and staff to use assessment information received on entry to plan and provide a stimulating curriculum which builds on existing skills and knowledge, enabling pupils to reach their full potential. • Targets for attainment that include Welsh are set and pupils' progress tracked. • Schools attainment and self-evaluation data is analysed to celebrate and disseminate good practice and identify areas for improvement. • Provide access to a comprehensive training programme to develop staff's bilingual skills and respond to any initiatives promoted by the WAG to develop bilingualism. • Through ESIS, the authority's advisory service and Athrawon Bro support the teaching of Welsh language throughout the authority. 	<p>Implementation 2010 Delivery – ongoing Annual review and evaluation</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually in September through to 2015</p>

<p>3. Support the implementation and subsequent development of the Foundation Phase within primary schools with its increased emphasis on the progressive development of children's bilingual skills in Welsh and English by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing a comprehensive programme of training • providing a Welsh language programme <p>continuing to evaluate standards and the quality of provision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a Welsh language programme for staff covering early years to Year 6 to provide support in the use of Welsh and the development of pupils' bilingual skills. • Continue to monitor and evaluate standards and the quality of provision, through analysis of Estyn inspection reports, and information received from the review and development programme and key officers. 	<p>2010 and reviewed annually in September through to 2015</p>
<p>3 PRIMARY EDUCATION (see section 13)</p> <p>1a) Review the standards of building accommodation in Welsh Medium primary schools as part of the Asset Management Plan.</p> <p>b) Continue to provide quality Welsh medium education for children of primary age for those parents who request it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the recently completed property condition surveys for both schools and fully assess their needs based upon the criteria of suitability, sufficiency and sustainability. The Education Asset Management Plan 2009 - 2014 has informed the Authority's Capital Building Programme. This has included major capital works for both Welsh-medium primary schools. Ysgol Santes Tudful moved to a new school during Spring Term 2009 and Ysgol Rhyd y Grug will move to refurbished premises for Autumn Term 2010. • Undertake an annual review using birth rate, demographic and trend data to inform the planning of school places, through the identification of potential shortfalls in meeting demand or of potentially surplus places. • The authority to continue to monitor and evaluate parental demand and availability of places within the Welsh medium sector each year and consider the likely impact of new and planned residential development on levels of need. • The authority will assess the need to survey parents on demand for Welsh-medium education. 	<p>Ysgol Santes Tudful new school opened Spring Term 2009</p> <p>Ysgol Rhyd y Grug to move to new site September 2010</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually</p> <p>2010 and every September through to 2015</p> <p>During the period 2010-2015</p>

<p>c) Review the standards of building accommodation in Welsh Medium primary schools as part of the Asset Management Plan.</p> <p>2. Develop, improve and extend the provision of Welsh medium education for primary age pupils to ensure standards and the quality of provision.</p> <p>3. Develop the teaching of Welsh second language and bilingualism throughout the Foundation Phase and primary education.</p> <p>4. Ensure pupils' understanding of Cwricwlwm Cymreig continues to be developed in all primary schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the recently completed property condition surveys for both schools and fully assess their needs based upon the criteria of suitability, sufficiency and sustainability. The Asset Management Plan 2009 - 2014 has informed the Authority's Capital Building Programme and this includes major capital works for both Welsh medium primary schools. Ysgol Santes Tudful moved to new premises in Spring 2009 and Ysgol Rhyd y Grug will transfer to refurbished premises for September 2010. • Through ESIS and school development staff continue to provide curriculum support for schools' efforts to raise levels of attainment. • Provide access to a comprehensive training programme for staff to enable them to deliver national curriculum programmes of study and develop bilingualism and an understanding of Cwricwlwm Cymreig and respond to initiatives promoted by the WAG to provide training for staff to implement the Foundation Phase requirements. • Through ESIS and Athrawon Bro services support the teaching of bilingualism and Welsh second language in primary schools throughout the authority. • Provide a Welsh language programme for staff covering early years to Year 6 to provide support in the use of Welsh and the development of pupils' bilingual skills. • Primary schools to continue to focus on developing pupils' understanding of Cwricwlwm Cymreig to ensure they have knowledge and understanding of cultural, economic, environmental, historical and linguistic characteristics of Wales. • Continue to provide access to a training programme for staff to raise awareness of opportunities available within the classroom and outside • Through ESIS and Athrawon Bro services support the development of Cwricwlwm Cymreig in primary schools throughout the LEA. • Through ESIS and the analysis of inspection data continue to monitor and evaluate whether Cwricwlwm Cymreig requirements 	<p>Ysgol Santes Tudful new school opened Spring Term 2009 Ysgol Rhyd y Grug to move to new site for Autumn Term 2010</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually each September</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually each September</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually each September</p>
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	<p>are met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through ESIS and Athrawon Bro services develop a language programme which supports the continued development of the Welsh language throughout all key stages in the primary phase. • Welsh medium schools continue to focus on developing Welsh and English language skills throughout the primary phase by using assessment to inform learning, setting challenging targets and monitoring and evaluating standards and the quality of provision. 	
<p>4 BRIDGING BETWEEN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (see section 14.2)</p> <p>1 Ensure that all of those children who received Welsh medium education during the primary phase are able to access Welsh medium education in the secondary sector.</p> <p>2. Ensure agreement and understanding between primary and secondary schools on levels of achievement in Welsh as a first language, in subjects taught through the medium of Welsh and Welsh second language to assist continuity and progression of all pupils transferring from the primary phase.</p> <p>3. Ensure standards of attainment are retained on transfer to the secondary phase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable parents to access details of Welsh medium education in the secondary sector. • Following recent audit of KS2/3, develop existing programme of pupil visits to Ysgol Rhydywaun through School Improvement Groups in order to share best practice. • The Head of School Improvement to continue to promote WAG initiatives to develop transition and increase links between the primary and secondary sectors, including Welsh medium schools. • Agree format for the transfer of assessment information from primary to secondary schools as part of the statutory transition plan for each school. • Through its Advisory Service and the Athrawon Bro monitor the development of the Welsh language in Year 7 to ensure continuity and progression. • Ensure a high level of language acquisition to enable pupils where 	<p>September 2010 and reviewed each Autumn Term</p> <p>September 2010 and reviewed each Autumn Term</p> <p>September 2010 and reviewed each Autumn Term</p>

	<p>possible to progress successfully from an English medium primary to a Welsh medium secondary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary schools to use assessment information to plan and provide a curriculum which builds on pupils' existing skills and knowledge, enabling pupils to reach their full potential. • Attainment targets are set and pupils' progress tracked. • Schools attainment and self-evaluation data is analysed to celebrate and disseminate good practice and identify areas for improvement. 	
<p>5 SECONDARY EDUCATION (see sections 14.2 to 14.6) 1. Continue to provide access to quality Welsh medium secondary education for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain co-operative arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council regarding the provision of Welsh medium secondary education of pupils from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. 	<p>Access to secondary education reviewed annually in September through to 2015</p>
<p>2. Ensure that every pupil in an English medium secondary school is given the opportunity to sit an external examination in Welsh as a second language by the end of KS4 and increase the percentage of pupils entered for GCSE Welsh Second Language (full and short course) from 42.9% to 45% by 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all pupils' learning in Welsh is appropriately accredited at the end of Key Stage 4. • Evaluate the impact of the activity based language course for pupils not following the GCSE Full Course in Key Stage 4. 	<p>July 2010 and annually through to 2015</p> <p>July 2010 and annually through to 2015</p>
<p>3. Evaluate statutory provision for Welsh second language at Key Stage 4 and disseminate effective practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advisory Service to review the variety of means by which schools are currently meeting the statutory requirements for the teaching of Welsh at Key Stage 4, taking account of Welsh Assembly Government, DCELLS and Estyn Guidance and to give guidance on effective strategies. 	<p>September 2010 and reviewed annually</p>
<p>6 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (see section 16) 1. Continue an active recruitment policy for Welsh speakers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the ability to speak Welsh a desirable selection criterion when recruiting special education needs support staff in order to support pupils with special educational needs within Welsh medium mainstream education. 	<p>2010 and ongoing</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore collaborative working arrangements with neighbouring authorities to be able to provide a bilingual SEN service. • Continue to offer the whole process of statutory assessment and drawing up a statement in Welsh, English or bilingually at the start of the assessment process. 	
2. Ensure suitable Welsh resources are available for pupils with SEN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current resources available to support pupils with SEN. • Work with ESIS to identify gaps in resources and materials to assist schools in assessing and supporting SEN and combine skills to address these. 	July 2010 and each summer term thereafter
<p>7 THE ATHRAWON BRO/ADVISORY SERVICES (see section 20)</p> <p>1. Ensure that the Athrawon Bro Team is adequately staffed to meet the needs of both Welsh first and second language across all key stages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue consultations with the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Language Board to provide suitable financial support to ensure an effective Athrawon Bro team within the County Borough. • Support schools at least 3 times a year using present staff ratio and increase visits if additional staff are funded. 	2010 and reviewed annually in July through to 2015
2. Continue to provide quality provision by the Athrawon Bro team to support nursery and primary and secondary teachers in Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.	<p>Athrawon Bro - Primary Second Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide suitable courses and classroom support for ESIS Athrawon Bro materials. • Develop local materials to coincide with ESIS Scheme of Work for Welsh Second language in the primary phase. • Develop and share additional materials to support all language skills. • Establish an effective assessment system and exemplary video to support teachers. • Ensure continuity and progression in transition from Year 6 to Year 7. <p>Athrawon Bro – First Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and provide suitable training for teachers on assessment procedures and strategies in Welsh within Welsh medium primary schools. • Ensure continuity and progression in the teaching of communication key skills through in-service training. • Develop materials to support all language skills. 	<p>Autumn 2010</p> <p>September 2010</p> <p>2010 and reviewed annually in July thereafter</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the use of ICT to raise standards in Welsh first and second language. 	
<p>3. Support the implementation and subsequent development of the Foundation Phase with its increased emphasis on the progressive development of children's bilingual skills in Welsh and English.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation and subsequent development of the Foundation Phase in schools. Athrawon Bro Team and ESIS to contribute towards bilingual element across learning areas using information from the County Borough Council and national Foundation Phase pilot. 	<p>2010 and annually in September through to 2015</p>
<p>8 SERVICES FOR LATECOMERS TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE (see sections 13.4, 14.4, 21) 1. Provide central support for schools when pupils transfer from non-Welsh medium primary schools to Welsh medium primary schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to assist latecomers to integrate according to demand and needs of individual schools. • Produce a range of suitable materials to further support schools. 	<p>2010 and whenever necessary through to 2015 Reviewed annually in July</p>
<p>9 WORKING WITH OTHER BODIES AND/OR COUNTIES (see section 26) 1. Continue to maintain a positive working relationship with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, RhAG, Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin, and other relevant organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor and strengthen collaborative working arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. • RhAG - represented on Welsh Medium Task Group. • MYM - represented on EY Development and Childcare Partnership meetings. 	<p>2010 and annually in September through to 2015</p>
<p>10 TRAINING AND SERVICES FOR SCHOOL GOVERNORS (see section 23) 1. Continue to ensure that bilingual material is available for governors of Welsh medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote the bilingual services that are available to governors. • Continue to ensure bilingual materials are circulated to governors of Welsh medium schools. 	<p>2010 and annually in September through to 2015</p>

<p>schools at meetings and training sessions</p>		
<p>2. Continue to ensure that translation services are available at meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote the translation services that are available to governing bodies. 	<p>2010 and whenever necessary through to 2015</p>
<p>11 POST 16 EDUCATION (see section 15) 1. Continue to monitor and strengthen Post 16 arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taff Authority. 2. Secure continued effective provision for post 16 learners through the medium of Welsh and extend the range of vocational courses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with the outcomes of the 14-19 Network's feasibility study produce an action plan which identifies the key actions and milestones to be taken throughout 2008-2013. The Network continues to support financially and in other ways the establishment of a range of accredited learning pathways through the medium of Welsh. • Continue to work in partnership with RCT and support continued Post 16 provision at Ysgol Rhydywaun. 	<p>September 2010 and reviewed annually in September thereafter</p> <p>Review progress each September</p>
<p>12 COMMUNITY EDUCATION, INCLUDING WELSH FOR ADULTS AND BASIC SKILLS (see section 25) 1. Actively promote the Welsh language within the Youth Service. 2. Further develop the partnership with the Urdd worker through the Youth Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of joint bilingual programmes eg trips and visits. • Encourage participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award through the medium of Welsh. • Develop bilingual leaflets which would be circulated throughout the Youth Service and Urdd centres. • Create bilingual information and advice points at each youth centre 	<p>2010 onwards through to 2015 Reviewed each Autumn term</p>
<p>13 MONITORING THE SCHEME (see section 27)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of document made available in every Department. • Consultation with schools through cluster group meetings and Welsh 	<p>Following approval of the scheme</p>

<p>1. Ensure that staff in other departments within the authority are aware of the Scheme and its content.</p>	<p>Medium Task Group meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report to Welsh Language Board annually from date of approval • Annual report to Cabinet 	<p>Annually from the date of approval of the scheme</p>
<p>2. Systematically monitor the implementation of the Scheme on behalf of the Director of Schools, Governance and Technical Services and provide an annual progress report.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termly report to Welsh Medium Task Group. 	<p>Termly following approval of the scheme</p>

CENSUS DATA: WELSH SPEAKERS BY WARD



<i>Electoral Divisions in Merthyr Tydfil</i>	<i>Age group</i>	<i>All people</i>	<i>Number of people able to speak Welsh</i>	<i>Number of people not able to speak Welsh</i>	<i>Percentage able to speak Welsh</i>
Bedlinog	3 and over	3289	296	2993	9.0
Cyfarthfa	3 and over	5943	783	5160	13.2
Dowlais	3 and over	6428	686	5742	10.7
Gurnos	3 and over	4826	344	4482	7.1
Merthyr Vale	3 and over	3786	404	3382	10.7
Park	3 and over	4199	391	3808	9.3
Penydarren	3 and over	5065	421	4644	8.3
Plymouth	3 and over	4836	464	4372	9.6
Town	3 and over	6375	675	5700	10.6
Treharris	3 and over	6024	701	5323	11.6
Vaynor	3 and over	3346	369	2977	11.0

LIST OF INSET COURSES TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF WELSH IN SCHOOLS

Welsh First Language

Primary

Welsh in the Foundation Phase
Newly Qualified Teachers of Welsh
Language and Literacy Co-ordinators
KS2 Planning for the Revised National Curriculum
Assessment for Learning - Reading

Secondary

Newly Qualified Teachers of Welsh
Training for aspiring heads of department
Using IT to support the New Curriculum
Raising standards in Welsh

KS3 Planning for the Revised National Curriculum

Welsh Second Language

Primary

Intensive Welsh Course - Beginners
Intensive Welsh Course - Beginners/Level 1
Intensive Welsh Course - Level 2
Intensive Welsh Course - Level 3
Welsh Refresher Course - Level 1

Welsh Course for LSAs
Early Years - Developing the role of the adult in the outdoor area
Foundation Phase - Bant â Ni
Foundation Phase - Ar y Ffordd
Foundation Phase - Day to Day
Foundation Phase - Dramatic Approach to Bilingualism
Foundation Phase - Bilingualism Using Hwiangerddi
Foundation Phase - Come for a Walk
Primary - KS2 Planning for the Revised National Curriculum

Secondary

Newly Qualified Teachers of Welsh
Training for aspiring heads of department
Using IT to support the New Curriculum
Raising standards in Welsh Second Language
KS3 Planning for the Revised National Curriculum
KS3 Assessment in Welsh Second Language

GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT TABLE FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

Ysgol Rhyd y Grug

Year	Early Years	Reception and Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2	Total
1996	22	116	147	285
1997	32	94	144	270
1998	44	90	152	286
1999	41	80	143	264
2000	30	92	118	240
2001	30	90	109	229
2002	30	99	109	238
2003	30	92	110	232
2004	22	92	104	218
2005	22	63	103	188
2006	19	63	101	183
2007	25	52	100	177
2008	22	50	92	164
2009	24	45	85	154
2010	25	50	70	145

Ysgol Santes Tudful

Year	Early Years	Reception and Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2	Total
1996	13	198	171	382
1997	56	206	186	448
1998	60	188	215	463
1999	59	180	220	459
2000	55	148	235	438
2001	60	142	230	432
2002	49	151	201	401
2003	49	164	188	401
2004	49	156	175	380
2005	55	153	181	389
2006	53	145	183	381
2007	67	139	189	395
2008	59	137	191	387
2009	58	151	189	398
2010	61	110	206	400

PUPIL PROJECTIONS IN WELSH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	Capacity	2008 (actual)	2009 (actual)	2010 (actual)	2011	2012	2013	2014
Ysgol Rhyd y Grug	183	142	130	120	120	126	133	147
Ysgol Santes Tudful	390	328	340	339	360	365	379	398

NOTE: these figures do not include nursery pupils