



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES  
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU  
CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION  
DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL



## Workshop 1

3.11.21

### Welsh and Bilingual Education for All

Thank you for attending the 'Mapping the Current Provision' Workshop, here is a summary of the main discussion points.

#### Main discussion points

*There are structural problems with the development of Welsh Medium Education provision due to the lack of a statutory education planning body for the statutory education sector. Mudiad Meithrin leads in the non-maintained sector and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol leads the planning of post 16 and higher education in the field of Welsh education. However, there is no statutory sector body beyond Local Authority officers and some Welsh Government officials. The current arrangements do not succeed in reaching everyone who wishes to receive Welsh-medium education.*

*Many education officers who work with asylum seekers and refugees promote Welsh-medium education opportunities, but this is not necessarily the case in all situations. Information regarding education is available online on local authority websites. Information hubs within libraries are provided by some local authorities, and this is where differences in knowledge levels occur.*

*All schools in Gwynedd and Anglesey offer Welsh education to newcomers.*

*Refugee / asylum seeker parents do not have an understanding that they have access to a Welsh language education for their children.*

*Some agencies working with refugees / asylum seekers do not promote Welsh-medium education. There is a lot of work to do with partners, a need to align and have clear education pathways from whatever country asylum seekers / refugees / immigrants come to Wales.*

*Many refugees assume that the Welsh children get in English medium schools is the provision that is available and are amazed to learn that Welsh Medium schools are available to them.*

*No school has the right to refuse any child a place (other than faith schools).*

*Racism / systemic racism is happening in Welsh speaking communities and there is a sense of denial that this isn't happening. Positive things are also happening within the Welsh speaking world, but a much wider awareness is needed.*

*There are shortcomings in the provision of Welsh in faith schools.*

*There is a need to increase the number of teachers from ethnic backgrounds in schools.*

*In the coming years immigrants are set to come to Britain from Hong Kong. There are concerns that there is not much information available about Welsh medium education, NGOs need to provide information. There is a lot of misinformation about education provision on the internet.*



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*Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has established projects that seek to introduce Welsh into ESOL groups, e.g., at Merthyr College where Welsh is introduced to asylum seekers, and learners have very positive attitudes.*

*Immigrants / refugees are not aware that the Welsh language exists, although more information is now available, e.g., Bangor University shares information for overseas families coming to university*

*There is a need to make information available in various languages - Newport Council's education brochure is available in 12 languages.*

*The attitudes of people who work with organizations looking after refugees and asylum seekers vary. Employees need sensitivity for bilingual issues.*

*A contributor encountered problems with teachers saying that Welsh is a difficult language for asylum seekers. People forget that many asylum seekers come from bilingual or multilingual countries and can learn more than one other language at the same time.*

*£2.2 million has been earmarked by the Welsh Government's Education Minister to develop new schemes for new entrants. That equates to £ 100 000 for each local authority.*

*The economic value of the Welsh language needs to be made more visible.*

*Support for families of children receiving Welsh-medium education is essential. There is an emphasis in some of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans in some LAs to support newcomers and their families*

*We want to get rid of the image that is Welsh for White Welsh. Just promote the Language and that it is accessible.*