



# **Language Impact Assessment Report - consultation on changing the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda**

# Language impact assessment

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## 1. Background Information

### 1.1 The Situation in Gwynedd

According to the 2021 Census, **73,560 people** (aged 3 and over) were able to speak Welsh in Gwynedd, which equates to **64.4%**. In 2011, the number of speakers in Gwynedd was **77,000** and the corresponding percentage was **65.4%**. Therefore, the proportion of people who speak Welsh in Gwynedd between 2011 and 2021 has reduced by 1%. According to the 2021 Census, 66% of people (aged 3 and over) in Gwynedd are able to speak, read or write in Welsh.

In Gwynedd, there is a substantial difference in the percentage of Welsh speakers in different wards across the county, e.g. the percentage in the Aberdyfi, Tywyn and Bangor central wards varies from between 26% and 44% of the population speaking Welsh, whilst as many as 86% speak Welsh in the Hendre and Llanrug wards.

Nevertheless, 70.9% of the population of children aged 3-4 years in Gwynedd are able to speak Welsh, with this percentage increasing to 88.6% for the 5-15 years age group.

### 1.2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is a Local Authority statutory document, and corresponds with the priorities of the Welsh Government to develop Welsh-medium education (in accordance with the targets of *Cymraeg 2050*). Local Authorities are expected to implement 7 outcomes, namely:

1. More nursery/3-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education.
2. More reception class/5-year-old children receiving Welsh-medium education.
3. More children continuing to improve skills when transferring from one key stage to the next.
4. More learners studying Welsh as a subject and subjects through the medium of Welsh.
5. Increase opportunities to use the Welsh language in various contexts.
6. Improve Welsh-medium education provision for ALN pupils.
7. Increase the number of staff members who can teach through the medium of Welsh.

### 1.3 Language Policy

#### **Primary**

The aim of the Language Policy is the same across all the county's primary schools, which is to develop the ability of all pupils to be confident in both languages by the end of KS2. Welsh is the official assessment language in school at the end of the Foundation Phase. In KS2, the aim is to continue to develop the pupils' grasp of Welsh, giving attention to the development of their skills in both languages.

#### **Secondary**

In secondary schools, every pupil who has attained the necessary level, namely level 3+ at the end of KS2, is expected to pursue Welsh First Language in KS3 in order to ensure appropriate progression and continuation. It is hoped that these pupils can study Welsh and English as subjects until the end of year 11. Secondary schools build upon the foundations set in the primary by ensuring that each pupil continues to develop skills in Welsh and in English.

#### 1.4 A million Welsh speakers by 2050

*Cymraeg 2050* is the Welsh Government's latest strategy for the Welsh language and it spans the next three decades. In this document, specific targets are noted to increase the numbers who speak Welsh, along with the use of Welsh.

The aims of *Cymraeg 2050* include:

	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Target</b>
1.	Increase the number of Welsh speakers	A million Welsh speakers by 2050
2.	Increase the use of the Welsh language	Daily use of Welsh increasing from 10% to 20%

The strategic document, *Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers*, emphasises the importance of increasing the number that speaks Welsh but it is also emphasised that increasing the daily use of Welsh is as important.

*Moving towards the position where we have a million speakers is one aspect of our vision for a thriving Welsh language. However, a thriving Welsh language is a language that is used. We want the use of Welsh to be a routine part of everyday life, so that speakers at all levels feel confident in its use in formal and informal situations... The Welsh Language Use Survey 2013–15 (Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner 2015) shows that there is a clear link between fluency and frequency of Welsh language use – 84 per cent of fluent Welsh speakers speak Welsh daily.*

*Source:- Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers (2017)*

#### 1.5 Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023 - 2033

*The Welsh Language Standards imposed on Cyngor Gwynedd by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 places an expectation on the Council to draw up a 5-year strategy which shows how it is intended to proceed to promote the Welsh language and to facilitate the use of Welsh across the county. The Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023 - 2033 is Cyngor Gwynedd's latest strategy for the Welsh language. In this document, there are specific targets for increasing the numbers who speak the language:*

	<b>How will we increase the number of speakers?</b>	<b>How will we measure on a local level, and during the period of the strategy?</b>
1.	Provide opportunities for children and young people who are not yet Welsh speakers (e.g. newcomers, children who do not receive mainstream education), to learn and become confident Welsh speakers.	Number of children receiving Welsh-medium education. Number of children receiving support through the immersion system of the Education Department.
2.	Provide opportunities for adults to become new speakers via the Council's learner support schemes and community provision of partners.	Number of Council employees receiving Learn Welsh lessons. Provision of community Welsh learning courses.

*Also in the Strategy is a commitment to increase the use of Welsh in the following fields:*

- *Language of the early years*
- *Language of Learning*
- *Language of Work and Service*
- *Language of the Community*

## 2. Linguistic profile of the catchment area of Felinwnda, Bontnewydd and Llandwrog.

2.1 According to the 2021 Census, **73,560 people** (aged 3 and over) were able to speak Welsh in Gwynedd, which equates to **64.4%**, which is substantially higher than the all-Wales figure of 17.8%. In Gwynedd, the Hendre ward has the highest proportion of Welsh speakers (86%), with the Bangor central ward having the lowest proportion (25.6%).

### 2.2 Wards

#### 2.2.1 Llanwnda, Y Groeslon and Bontnewydd Wards

The catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda is within the Llanwnda ward with the catchment area of Ysgol Llandwrog within the Groeslon ward and Ysgol Bontnewydd within the Bontnewydd ward (Office for National Statistics). The linguistic profile of the wards of these schools has been summarised in the following table:

	Llanwnda	Y Groeslon	Bontnewydd	Gwynedd	Wales
<b>3+ years old population</b>	1,370 (100%)	1,621 (100%)	1,233 (100%)	114,308 (100%)	3,018,172 (100%)
<b>Welsh identity only</b>	1,082 (76.1%)	1,200 (72.2%)	917 (73.5%)	69,560 (59.3%)	1,715,975 (55.2%)
<b>No Welsh identity</b>	19.9%	23.7%	19%	36.3%	36.7%
<b>Able to speak Welsh</b>	1,145 (83.5%)	1,247 (77%)	1,015 (82.5%)	73,560 (64.4%)	538,296 (17.8%)
<b>Able to speak, read and write in Welsh</b>	1,013 (73.9%)	1,128 (69.6%)	894 (72.5%)	63,256 (55.3%)	429,313 (14.2%)
<b>Able to speak and read Welsh but unable to write in Welsh</b>	44 (3.2%)	43 (2.7%)	42 (3.4%)	3,170 (2.8%)	33,971 (1.1%)
<b>Able to speak Welsh but unable to read or write in Welsh</b>	70 (5.1%)	58 (3.6%)	68 (5.5%)	6,142 (5.4%)	68,391 (2.3%)
<b>Can understand Welsh verbally only</b>	62 (4.5%)	98 (6.0%)	57 (4.6%)	8,166 (7.1%)	156,762 (5.2%)
<b>Another combination of Welsh language skills</b>	18 (1.3%)	18 (1.1%)	13 (1.1%)	993 (0.9%)	6,621 (0.2%)
<b>No Welsh language skills</b>	142 (10.4%)	237 (14.6%)	129 (10.5%)	29,977 (26.2%)	2,259,017 (74.8%)

Source:- 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

### 2.3 The schools' linguistic background

The information in the table below outlined the linguistic background of the learners of Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd.

School	Speak Welsh fluently at home	Speak Welsh at home but not fluently	Do not speak Welsh at home but are fluent in Welsh	Do not speak Welsh at home and not fluent in Welsh	Do not speak Welsh at all
Llandwrog	84%	2%	0%	7%	7%
Bontnewydd	85%	8%	3%	2%	2%

*Source: Data from Headteachers PLASC January 2024*

### 2.4 The Welsh language at the Schools

In accordance with the school categorisation procedure according to Welsh-medium provision, Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd are Category 3 Welsh-medium schools. This means that Welsh is the main language for internal communication in both schools. The schools have a strong Welsh ethos, and support and enable the learners to use the Welsh language in all social contexts in and outside the school.

The categorisation procedure reiterates the county's Education Language Policy, which was to develop the ability of all pupils to be proficient in both languages by the end of KS2. At Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd, the Welsh language is the official language of the assessment at the school at the end of the Foundation Phase. In KS2, the pupils' grasp of Welsh is continued to be developed, addressing to develop their skills in Welsh and English.

Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd implement the objectives of the Gwynedd Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032. These include:

- That all pupils in the county possess appropriate linguistic skills in Welsh and English, and that this expectation is consistent across each school.
- That there is an appropriate provision to enable every pupil to develop bilingual proficiency. In this context, schools are expected to continue to foster the skills of those pupils who are Welsh first language, and introduce Welsh to those who are Welsh learners.
- That all of the county's education establishments are expected to reflect and reinforce the Language Policy in their administration, social life and pastoral arrangements, as well as in their curricular provision.

## 2.5 After-school Activities

After-school activities are held in the Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd buildings.

Here is a summary of what is being offered after school for the children within the two catchment areas:

	Llandwrog		Bontnewydd	
	The School Building	Village Hall	The School Building	Village Hall
<b>Play Groups (School holidays)</b>				✓
<b>Aelwyd yr Urdd</b>	✓		✓	
<b>Coffee Morning/Evening</b>	✓		✓	
<b>Cylch/Ysgol Feithrin</b>				✓
<b>Club / After-school Club / Sports Activities</b>	✓			✓

It can be seen in the table above that Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd offer after-school Urdd activities. The learners in the area are able to continue to take advantage of these activities to use the Welsh language informally.

## 2.6 Additional Evidence

### Ysgol Llandwrog

The Estyn report in 2019 states:

"Welsh is the main medium of the school's life and work. Around 90% of pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes."

[Ysgol Llandwrog's Estyn Inspection Report 2019](#)

### Ysgol Bontnewydd

The Estyn report in 2017 states:

"Welsh is the school's everyday language and the main medium of learning and teaching. English is taught formally in key stage 2. Approximately 75% of pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes, and very few pupils are from ethnic minority backgrounds."

[Ysgol Bontnewydd's Estyn Inspection Report 2017](#)

### 3. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

**Option 1** - Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to the catchment area of Ysgol Llandwrog.

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities?	Final impact (following mitigation methods)
<p><b>The language of the school (formal)</b></p>	<p>Since Ysgol Llandwrog is a Category 3 Welsh-medium school, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same. Since the learners would be educated in larger classes and with more children in the same age group, this option could strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language with their peers in formal situations at the school.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>The language of the school (informal)</b></p>	<p>Since Ysgol Llandwrog is a Category 3 Welsh-medium school, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same. 86% of the learners of Ysgol Llandwrog speak Welsh at home. This means that there are good foundations for the informal use of Welsh by learners at the school. As the learners would be educated in larger classes and with more children in the same age group, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for learners to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vibrancy of the Welsh language and the informal use of the language would be further reinforced. As a result, the option may strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language informally with their peers at the school.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<b>Access to Welsh medium education</b>	Ysgol Llandwrog is a Welsh-medium Category 3 school. It is not anticipated that this option would affect this criterion.	Neutral	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-statutory Provision</b>	Pupils would have access to a wider range of suitable resources, a higher supply in terms of staffing, and they would be part of a larger peer group of the same age.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Activities before / after school</b>	Ysgol Llandwrog already offers after-school Urdd activities. By implementing this option, more learners could take advantage of activities like these as an opportunity to use the Welsh language after school.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Using Welsh in the community</b>	According to the 2021 Census, 81.1% of the population of the Llanwnda ward are Welsh speakers, and 77% of the population of the Groeslon ward (Ysgol Llandwrog is located in the ward) are Welsh speakers. This sets a good foundation for the vibrancy of the Welsh language and opportunities to use the Welsh language in these communities.	Neutral	N/A	N/A



**Option 2 - Transfer the entire Felinwnda catchment area to the Ysgol Bontnewydd catchment area.**

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities?	Final impact (following mitigation methods)
<p><b>The language of the school (formal)</b></p>	<p>Since Ysgol Bontnewydd is a Category 3 Welsh-medium school, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same.</p> <p>Since the learners would be educated in larger classes and with substantially more children in the same age group, this option could strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language with their peers in formal situations at the school.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>The language of the school (informal)</b></p>	<p>Since Ysgol Bontnewydd is a Category 3 Welsh-medium school, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same.</p> <p>95.5% of the learners at Ysgol Bontnewydd speak Welsh at home. This means that there are good foundations for the informal use of Welsh by learners at the school.</p> <p>As the learners would be educated in larger classes and with more children in the same age group, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for learners to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the level of vibrancy of the Welsh language and the</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	informal use of the language would be further reinforced. As a result, the option may strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language informally with their peers at the school.			
<b>Access to Welsh medium education</b>	Ysgol Bontnewydd is a Welsh-medium Category 3 school. Therefore, it is not anticipated that this option would affect this criterion.	Neutral	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-statutory provision</b>	Pupils would have access to a wider range of suitable resources, a higher supply in terms of staffing, and they would be part of a larger peer group of the same age.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Activities before / after school</b>	Ysgol Bontnewydd offers after-school Urdd activities. By implementing this option, more learners could take advantage of activities like these as an opportunity to use the Welsh language after school.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Using Welsh in the community</b>	According to the 2021 Census, 81.1% of the population of the Llanwnda ward are Welsh speakers, and 82.6% of the population of the Bontnewydd ward are Welsh speakers. This sets a good foundation for the vibrancy of the Welsh language and opportunities to use the Welsh language in these communities.	Neutral	N/A	N/A

**Option 3** - Dividing the Felinwnda catchment area according to the houses that are geographically closest to Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd.

Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work	Have any measures been identified to mitigate any negative impact or to create more positive opportunities?	Final impact (following mitigation methods)
<b>The language of the school (formal)</b>	<p>Since Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd are Category 3 Welsh-medium schools, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same.</p> <p>Since the learners would be educated in larger classes and with more children in the same age group, this option could strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language with their peers in formal situations at the school.</p>	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>The language of the school (informal)</b>	<p>Since Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd are Category 3 Welsh-medium schools, it is concluded that this option would not affect the language of the children's education, since the expectation for each of the primary schools in the county (except one), is the same.</p> <p>A high percentage of learners speak Welsh at home at Ysgol Bontnewydd (95.5%) and Ysgol Llandwrog (86%). This means that there are good foundations for the informal use of Welsh by learners at the school. Since the learners would be educated in larger classes and with more children from the same age group, it is anticipated that there would be more opportunities for the learners to use Welsh informally with their peers inside and outside the classroom, and that the</p>	Positive	N/A	N/A

	Welsh language's level of vibrancy and informal use of the language would be further reinforced. As a result, the option may strengthen the opportunities for learners to use the Welsh language informally with their peers at both schools.			
<b>Access to a Welsh-medium education</b>	Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd are Welsh-medium Category 3 schools. Therefore, it is not anticipated that this option would affect this criterion.	Neutral	N/A	N/A
<b>Non-statutory provision</b>	Pupils would have access to a wider range of suitable resources, a higher supply in terms of staffing, and they would be part of a larger peer group of the same age.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Activities before / after school</b>	Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd offer after-school Urdd activities. By implementing this option, more learners could take advantage of activities like these as an opportunity to use the Welsh language after school.	Positive	N/A	N/A
<b>Use of Welsh in the community</b>	<p>According to the 2021 Census, 81.1% of the population of the Llanwnda ward are Welsh speakers, and 77% of the population of the Groeslon ward (Ysgol Llandwrog is located in the ward) are Welsh speakers and 82.5% of the population of the Bontnewydd ward are Welsh speakers.</p> <p>This sets a good foundation for the vibrancy of the Welsh language and opportunities to use the Welsh language in these communities.</p>	Neutral	N/A	N/A

#### **4. Conclusion**

Our expectations are that all of the County's learners have age-relevant and well-balanced bilingual skills to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part. Proposals to change the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda would have to take full consideration of all linguistic impacts. Reinforcing the use of Welsh as the formal and informal language of the school will be a key consideration.

Having considered the information in this assessment, it was concluded that neither of the 3 options under consideration would have a negative impact on the Welsh language since Ysgol Llandwrog and Ysgol Bontnewydd are Welsh-medium Category 3 schools. In addition, a high percentage of learners speak Welsh at home at Ysgol Llandwrog (86%) and Ysgol Bontnewydd (95.5%). Similarly, by implementing any of the 3 options, it will be a means to further reinforce the Welsh language.