

<b>Stage 1 – Information Gathering</b>	
<b>NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for evidence to support your views. Please see Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance for more information on data sources.</b>	
<b>Proposal Name:</b>	Porthcawl Welsh-medium Seedling School and Welsh-medium childcare provision
<b>Department</b>	School Modernisation, Education and Family Support Directorate
<b>Service Director</b>	Mr Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey Corporate Director – Education and Family Support
<b>Officer Completing the WLIA</b>	Chris Lewis Project Manager
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Christopher.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk">Christopher.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk</a>
<b>Phone</b>	01656 642645
<b>Brief Description</b>	The proposal is to create a Welsh-medium Seedling School (that is, a ‘starter class’ for 30 full-time-equivalent Nursery pupils plus 30 places for Reception pupils) co-located with Welsh-medium childcare provision in Porthcawl on an area of land at the existing Porthcawl Primary School site.
<b>Date</b>	17 October 2022
<b>Please outline who this proposal affects? (Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School governing body, staff, pupils and parents/carers.</li> <li>• Potentially certain surrounding schools within the local catchment area.</li> <li>• Stakeholder groups (for example, community users).</li> </ul>

<p><b>What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?</b></p>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to create a Welsh-medium Seedling School ('starter class' for 30 full-time-equivalent Nursery pupils plus 30 places for Reception pupils) co-located with Welsh-medium childcare provision in Porthcawl on an area of land at the existing Porthcawl Primary School site. The seedling school will be part of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr and, at Year 1, pupils would transfer to that school following their Welsh-medium 'seedling' reception year. The proposal would provide additional Welsh-medium primary pupil places to serve the Porthcawl area and thereby support the local authority's and Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 aspirations.</p>						
<p><b>Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.</b></p>	<p>The communities within the vicinity of the school since the proposed Seedling provision and co-located childcare provision would be Welsh-medium. The seedling school will be part of Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr and, at Year 1, pupils would transfer to that school following their Welsh-medium 'seedling' reception year.</p> <p>There should also be a positive impact on Welsh language groups as the school would be accessible to the local community. This could involve Welsh for adult classes, meetings of Welsh language groups.</p>						
<p><b>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned</b></p>	<p>The Annual Population Survey for the year ending June 2022, reported that 18.3% of respondents living in the County Borough of Bridgend said they could speak Welsh, compared to the all-Wales percentage of 29.7% of respondents. This can be further broken down to the data contained in the table that follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1093 1233 2022 1305"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Bridgend County Borough</td> <td>Wales</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)				Bridgend County Borough	Wales
Welsh Language Skills of Residents (%)							
	Bridgend County Borough	Wales					

	Can read Welsh	16.7%	26%															
	Can write Welsh	15.2%	24%															
	Can understand spoken Welsh	21%	33.4%															
	<p>The data shows that there is a gap in the Welsh language skills of residents of Bridgend when compared to the whole of Wales.</p>																	
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	<p>The data indicates that in terms of the spoken language, the percentage of Bridgend residents when compared to the whole of Wales that use the Welsh language is significantly less.</p> <p><a href="https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language">https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language</a></p>																	
<b>Other relevant data or research</b>	<p>The data clearly shows that there is a variance in the Welsh language skills of Bridgend County Borough residents when compared with all-Wales data.</p>																	

## Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals. Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</b> e.g. staff, residents and visitors The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p>The proposal aims to increase participation in the Welsh language by providing additional Welsh-medium primary pupil places (and Welsh-medium childcare) to serve the Porthcawl area. The proposal could also potentially offer the opportunity to parents/carers and other members of the</p>	<p>The facilities will potentially provide an opportunity for Welsh language courses to be offered to parents/carers thereby increasing Welsh language opportunities and supports the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 agenda.</p>	<p>Promotion of the Welsh language through early engagement activities with parents/carers.</p> <p>Signposting parents/carers to Welsh language classes/courses.</p> <p>Professional development of school staff and sharing of best practice.</p>

		<p>community to attend Welsh classes and/or other opportunities for community engagement through the medium of Welsh. In addition, they will be encouraged to signpost parents/carers to Welsh language classes.</p> <p>The seedling school's facilities could be used out of hours for Welsh language activities that will increase participation.</p>		
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## Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<b>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers</b>	<b>Positive</b>	The proposal directly increases Welsh-medium pupil places in the area. In addition, it offers potential	Given its proposed location within Porthcawl, the school will be accessible to the	The Council is committed to promoting the Welsh language, increasing the number of Welsh schools

<p>e.g Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / BCBC Five Year Welsh</p>		<p>opportunities to teaching staff, support staff, parents, carers and the wider community to learn Welsh as a second language by for example providing Welsh for adult classes facilitated by the University of South Wales Welsh for Adults Centre.</p>	<p>immediate and wider community.</p>	<p>and number of pupil places, as detailed in the WESP.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</b></p> <p>e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time.</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p>The Council aims to embed positive habits and attitudes towards the Welsh language through purposeful planning to promote the informal use of the Welsh language among pupils both inside and outside of school</p>	<p>Given its proposed location within Porthcawl, the school will be accessible to the immediate and wider community</p>	<p>There are opportunities for the seedling school to promote the use of their facilities to the community for participation in classes and activities delivered through Welsh, thereby promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The seedling school will be designed with community use in mind. It will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equalities Act 2010.</p>

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?				
	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>Compliance with the Council's <a href="#">Statutory Welsh Language Standards</a></b></p> <p>e.g increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh. Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use</p>	<p><b>Positive</b></p>	<p>The school could allow the use of facilities by the community for Welsh classes/activities delivered through Welsh, thereby promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>The seedling school will be designed with</p>	<p>Given its location within Porthcawl, the school will be accessible to the immediate and wider community</p>	<p>Contractual arrangements and processes for the delivery of the project will be undertaken so that they are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards.</p>

Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work		community use in mind. It will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equalities Act 2010. There may be opportunities to run community activities during school hours.		
<b>Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language</b>	<b>Positive</b>	Contractual arrangements and processes for the delivery of the project will be undertaken so that they are compliant with the Welsh Language Standards.	The proposal offers opportunities to teaching staff, support staff, parents, carers and the wider community to learn Welsh as a second language by providing Welsh for adult classes facilitated by the University of South Wales Welsh for Adults Centre.	The scheme would be developed to ensure there is no negative impact on any protected group. The school can provide opportunities for Welsh language community groups (for example, adult Welsh classes).

### Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary. Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
The Council has adopted a phased approach to expanding primary provision in Bridgend with Welsh-medium capacity being addressed as part of Band B of the local authority's School Modernisation Programme.	If taken forward to completion, it is currently estimated that this proposal to create a Welsh-medium seedling school with co-located Welsh-medium childcare provision would be effective from January 2025. It would form 'part' of the Council's phased approach to expanding Welsh-medium capacity.	Education and Family Support

	<p>The Council has other active schemes to increase Welsh-medium capacity in the county borough. For example, in order to increase the number of Welsh-medium places to support Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy, the local authority's WESP and to provide a new 21<sup>st</sup> century school building to support the delivery of the new curriculum, Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr is scheduled to have a brand new, enlarged 21st century school building in 2024.</p> <p>The council has also brought forward a proposal to build a replacement school for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr.</p> <p>Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr is a Welsh-medium primary school that serves Bridgend town, Valleys Gateway and Pencoed areas. In March 2015, cabinet approval was received for the council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. The new school will be designed to accommodate 525 pupils aged 4 to 11, 90 full-time equivalent nursery children and an 8-place observation and assessment class and is expected to</p>	
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	<p>open at the beginning of the autumn term 2025.</p> <p>The proposal will impact positively on Welsh-medium provision as the project will deliver a significant increase in pupil places for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr. It is anticipated that the uptake of Welsh-medium education in the area will increase as a consequence of the proposal, thereby supporting the authority's WESP targets, promoting the Welsh language and increasing the numbers of non-maintained nursery children transitioning to a Welsh-medium primary education.</p> <p>It should be noted that longer term, there will be increased choice available in respect of Welsh-medium primary school provision in the area, as in 2020, Cabinet gave approval in principle to the development of a new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school to serve the Porthcawl area as part of a future band of the School Modernisation Programme.</p> <p>The intention is that the future new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school scheme would be aligned to the development of</p>	
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	<p>the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme (the school would be developed as the Regeneration scheme is 'built-out').</p> <p>There is a risk that in the interim some parents will choose to send their children to the nearby English-medium school following their Welsh-medium 'seedling' Reception year. However, given that Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr is scheduled to have a brand new, enlarged 21st century school building in 2024 and that it is also planned to provide a future new one-form-entry Welsh-medium school in the area, the risk is likely to be small.</p>	
<p><b>If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.</b></p>		
<p><b>What was identified?</b></p>	<p><b>Why is it not possible?</b></p>	
<p>There are ways to promote and increase the use of Welsh language.</p>		

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#### Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – [WLS@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:WLS@bridgend.gov.uk) and the Consultation and Engagement team – [consultation@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@bridgend.gov.uk) in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback

-	20.12.2022	-
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation
-	20.12.2022	-

### Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

Should the proposal proceed, the project will be regularly reviewed during the course of design, delivery, and post-occupation by the Project Manager, School Modernisation Team.

### Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts.

The proposal is to create a Welsh-medium Seedling School (that is, a ‘starter class’ for 30 full-time-equivalent Nursery pupils plus 30 places for Reception pupils) co-located with Welsh-medium childcare provision in Porthcawl on a surplus part of the existing Porthcawl Primary School site.

The proposal is considered to have a positive effect on the Welsh language:

- The school’s facilities could be utilised for community use/adult classes through the Welsh language.
- The school would be located within the local community of Porthcawl and will encourage use by the immediate and wider community seeking an opportunity to engage in Welsh classes/courses that could be offered.
- The school would be fully accessible.
- The provision would directly increase Welsh-medium pupil and childcare places in the area.

### Stage 7 – Sign off

Name of Officer completing WLIA	Chris Lewis	Service Director name:	Mr Lindsay Harvey
Position	Project Manager	I recommend that the proposal:	Is implemented with no amendments

v1.3

		(Highlight decision)	
Signature	C Lewis	Service Director Signature	<i>J J Harvey</i>
Date	17 October 2022	Date	27.2.2023

v1.3