



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Suzy Davies MS

29 September 2020

Dear Suzy

Please find below information on the work done undertaken in relation to reviewing the current language categorisation of schools over the last two years and the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, in response to your request for information on these matters during Business Questions on 15th September 2020.

In response to the Rapid Review of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans in 2017 and the recommendations made by the subsequent Independent Advisory Board, I called for a review of the current definitions and categorisation of schools in Wales according to Welsh medium provision.

As part of this review, an expert panel of Welsh language and education specialists were commissioned, led by former Chief Executive of the Welsh Language Board, Meirion Prys Jones, to consider the current categories, the challenges around the current arrangements and to present new options for the arrangements around designating schools according to their Welsh medium provision. Their report was received in December 2019.

We aim to consult on new non-statutory arrangements around school language designations by the end of the year.

The Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, introduced to the Senedd on 6 July, requires English and Welsh to be mandatory for all children. It also allows for the disapplication of English to enable the continuation of Welsh language immersion provision in schools and non-maintained settings up to 7 years of age. This would provide a statutory framework for Welsh language immersion, supporting our strategy to reach 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. However, you will be aware, I am considering the feedback from key stakeholders and Members of the Senedd on this matter.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Officials would be happy to meet with you if you wish to discuss further the policy on welsh language categorisation.

I hope this letter provides you with the information you require.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'W'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education