

**PROPOSAL TO
AMEND LANGUAGE MEDIUM OF THE
FOUNDATION LEARNING AND ADMIT
3-YEAR-OLD PUPILS ON A PART TIME
BASIS AT NEW QUAY PRIMARY SCHOOL**



LEARNING SERVICES

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
Supplementary Information

October 2023

Proposal to amend language medium of the foundation learning and admit 3-year-old pupils on a part time basis at New Quay Primary School

Details of affected schools

The following is a list of the schools likely to be affected by the proposal.

School Name	School Category	School Language Category	Age Range	Number of Nursery Places
New Quay Primary	Community Primary	T2	4 - 11	No nursery provision
Bro Siôn Cwilt Primary School	Community Primary	Category 3	3 - 11	Nursery provision
Llanarth Primary School	Community Primary	Category 3	3 – 11	No nursery provision

Welsh Government Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision (December 2022)

T2: *To help encourage an increase in Welsh-medium provision, we have included what we call, ‘transitional sub-categories’ which are created as bridging categories. These transitional arrangements enable schools to plan how they will realise an increase in Welsh medium provision over time. We emphasise here that the aim of the transitional sub-category is to increase the Welsh-medium provision in order to facilitate schools moving to the next category. A transitional category should not be permanent. Local authorities’ plans for categorising schools according to Welsh-medium provision should be agreed between schools and local authorities and thereafter, outlined in the local authority’s WESP. Local authorities are expected to plan intensively during the first five years of their Plan. Similarly, it is expected that decisions that will move a school along the continuum will be made during the first five years. A transitional category should not exceed a maximum period of 10 years.*

3: Welsh Medium: *Welsh is the school’s main language of internal communication. Communication with parents and carers is in either English, Welsh or bilingually as needed. This is a school with a strong Welsh language ethos at its core, supporting and enabling learners’ Welsh language use in all social context in and outside of school.*

In a Welsh immersion setting all learners are taught fully in Welsh, with English being used on occasion to ensure understanding during early immersion.

From aged 7 onwards at least 80% of learner's school activities (both curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.

The standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered, both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places:

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd is a Welsh medium childcare and early education setting providing a service for 2-4-year-olds term time (6 hours a day).

It is situated in a dedicated cabin within the town which is some distance away from the school with limited pavements available.

The setting is managed by a voluntary committee and is registered with the Charity Commission to support pre-school children in New Quay.

The childcare service is registered and inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and is providing the Welsh Language 'active offer'.

The education provision is delivered under an agreement with Ceredigion County Council and inspected by Estyn.

The setting offers the early education during the morning period and childcare elements of the Welsh Government 30-hour Childcare Offer for Wales to 3–4 yearolds, ensuring wrap-around childcare is available in one place for working parents. This complies with the Welsh Government's initiative for children to stay at one location to ensure continuity of care and strong attachments during their early development, lessening the number of transitions within a child's day.

Since April 2023 Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd has been identified as one of the new expansion areas for Flying Start which offers 12.5 hours of childcare for 2-year-olds per week.

The Cylch has benefitted significantly from the Childcare Offer Capital Grant (2018-2022) and Childcare and Early Years Capital Grant (2022-2025) to improve its indoor and access to the outdoor environment and play resources to support the delivery of the Curriculum for Wales. The terms and conditions of this grant is the assurance of providing a childcare service for 5 years after its receipt.

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd also offer a holiday club during the summer holidays for children 2-8 years old during the busy tourism period due to demand from working parents.

Children aged 2-4 with additional learning needs benefit from additional support through the Cynllun Cyfeirio scheme which is not available in schools.

An Additional Support Grant can also be accessed for children eligible for the Childcare Offer for staff support with their additional learning needs.

This childcare setting is also able to access the Ymuno funding which is for registered Out of School Care to meet the needs of children whilst at the provision.

Since 2018 (date of last Estyn inspection) there have been changes in the voluntary management committee with a newly employed staffing structure (4 members of staff plus bank staff).

Most recent reports are available here:

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd | Estyn (gov.wales) 2017

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd | Estyn (llyw.cymru) 2017

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd | Care Inspectorate Wales

“Welsh is the main language used and the service provides the Welsh Language ‘active offer’.

The setting is suitable for children's play and learning experiences.”

Whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area:

The current provision (19 places) is sufficient to local demand.

Birth rates remain consistent in the area.

However, there is a large housing development site proposed in the area.

The levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character:

Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd can accept children from the age of 2, meaning children are immersed in the Welsh language from an early age.

The Early Education for 3–4 year olds is delivered through the medium of Welsh and funded via an Agreement / Cytundeb by Ceredigion County Council since Summer Term 2004.

This setting is now offering Flying Start childcare provision for 2-year-olds under the expansion of the scheme.

Support is provided by the Senior Advisory Teacher – Early Education for 3-year-olds and Flying Start Advisory Teacher for 2-year-olds.

The impact of the proposals on other organisations, including private and third sector providers:

Each Playgroup/Cylch is an independent charity / business with a voluntary management board responsible for their independent bank accounts, annual accounts, recruitment, staffing responsibilities and business management.

They pay membership to an umbrella organisation for support and advice (Mudiad Meithrin).

3-year-old education funding is the main income of this setting and is necessary for the sustainability of the provision.

If the education is provided in the school, wraparound care cannot be guaranteed. Staffing ratios will need to be met to ensure walking the children safely from the school back to Cylch for wraparound care including funded Childcare Offer places.

Providing Flying Start childcare alone is not financially viable due to higher staffing costs of adult to child ratio.

The lack of childcare in Ceredigion has been identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, and provision is necessary for children in the area Cylch Meithrin Cei Newydd is currently the only registered Childcare provision in the area.

If the early education is moved from the Cylch to the School, the staff cannot be TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment rights) over as they may not have qualified teacher status.

The extent to which proposal will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach:

If the proposal is approved, parents will have the choice for their child to remain in the non-maintained setting or attend the school nursery provision on a part time basis. The integration of early education with childcare services will be monitored and supported.

Due to the current childcare provision being located some distance from the school it could potentially result in a loss of wraparound care which may change parents working patterns which will have an impact on the Local economy.

Staffing ratios will need to be met to ensure walking the children safely from the school back to playgroup for wraparound care including funded Childcare Offer places.

Revised consultation timetable:

Date	Activity
15 September 2023	Formal consultation period begins: A period of formal consultation will take place, during this time interested parties can make their views known regarding the proposal.
17 November 2023	Extension to Formal Consultation Ends
6 February 2024	Formal Consultation Report: At the end of the formal consultation period, responses will be collated and presented to Cabinet in the form of a Formal Consultation Report including a recommendation from Officers. This will be published on the Ceredigion website.
19 February 2024	Statutory Notice period begins: If the proposal is accepted by Cabinet, a Statutory Notice is issued. During the statutory Objection period, objections must be made in writing and sent to the proposer within 28 days of the date on which the proposal was published.
18 March 2024	Statutory Notice period ends.
4 June 2024	Cabinet: Report the number of objections received and decision as to whether to implement the proposal