



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Education, Skills and Wellbeing Cabinet Board**  
**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Report of the Head of Education Development – Christopher Millis**

### **Matter for Information**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All Wards

**Report Title: Neath Port Talbot Welsh second language support**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

To provide Members with a summary of the Neath Port Talbot Welsh second language support

#### **Executive Summary:**

The report provides detail of Neath Port Talbot Welsh second language support and the progress to date.

#### **Background:**

##### **The Welsh (English-medium team)**

The Welsh (English medium) team consists of one Curriculum Development Officer (Alison Streefland) and 3 Teacher Development Officers (Gemma Loaring, Kim Foster and Rhian Ashton.)

##### **Curriculum Development Officer**

The CDO is responsible for making all the key decisions regarding the delivery of Welsh in English-medium schools in NPT. The CDO manages the W(Em) team and informs and trains the TDOs to ensure a common approach and to maintain standards. The TDO produces and provides all teacher training (e.g. methodology courses /

centralised training sessions / Welsh Coordinator training / Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus training. The CDO liaises with outside agencies (Yr Urdd / Menter iaith / Rhagoriaith / Peniarth / UWTSD Sabbatical team / Swansea University Dysgu Cymraeg Bae Abertawe..) and other counties (Swansea , Powys and Penfro) and represents the interests of NPT in meetings / forums. The CDO is responsible for verifying Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus schools and compiling all verification reports.

### **Organisation of the W(Em) team**

Kim Foster and Gemma Loaring are on a 0.6 contract (3 days a week). Rhian Ashton works 0.6 as a TDO and an additional 0.4 as the Cynefin Lead for NPT so is therefore on a full- time contract.

Each TDO is responsible for 15 schools within designated clusters:

- Rhian Ashton – St Joseph’s, Cefn Saeson and Dŵr y Felin
- Kim Foster – Cwm Brombil and Cwmtawe
- Gemma Loaring – Bae Baglan and Llangatwg

The TDOs provide support visits for all 15 schools. A *minimum* of 3 visits per term is provided for every school with additional *targeted* visits provided for schools who request / require additional help / support. Schools in line for an Estyn visit will also be offered additional support.

During their visits the TDO may provide support for:

- The Welsh Coordinator – help and advice re: planning / monitoring / policies etc
- The Siarter Iaith Lead – help and advice re: achieving Cymraeg Campus targets
- Classroom teachers – provide *in-class training* via exemplar lessons and create bespoke resources in response to need
- Teaching Assistants – provide practical advice and support with their role both in and outside the classroom
- Specific groups of pupils- Criw Cymraeg / Mat pupils / Guided reading sessions

### **Aims and Objectives**

In line with the expectations of the Curriculum for Wales, the Welsh government’s Language Strategy and the stated objectives of the Siarter Iaith-Cymraeg Campus, the

W(Em) team aims to promote a **holistic** approach to the teaching of Welsh in NPT schools.

We aim to ensure that Welsh is taught as a *living language* in our schools rather than a subject on a timetable. The emphasis is placed on developing the skills of listening and speaking whilst providing pupils with authentic opportunities to use the language as a means of communication both across the curriculum and inside and outside the classroom. NPT schools have been trained in, and are expected to follow Language Journey methodology as devised by the CDO. This methodology is, put simply, a step by step guide on how to teach Welsh effectively, placing the oracy skills of listening and speaking firmly at the start of that journey.

### **Cymraeg Campus**

The W(Em) team fully support the Siarter Iaith -Cymraeg Campus as a ***whole-school*** initiative which aims to create a Welsh ethos in our schools by including all stakeholders in the creation of that ethos. The W(Em) team work with Siarter Leaders, the Criw Cymraeg and other stakeholders ( i.e. breakfast club and lunchtime staff / playground supervisors / office staff...) to ensure that age-appropriate **Cymraeg Bob Dydd** is used by all, regularly and effectively. The W(Em) team acknowledges that the *greatest impact on pupils' levels of bilingualism is the Welsh we use around them*.

### **Cynefin**

In response to the significance of CYNEFIN within the Curriculum for Wales and the expectation for cynefin to be *driver for all topics and themes* in our classrooms (Estyn) the W(Em) team have provided support in the following ways:

- CDO organised a 10 week CYNEFIN project (2021-22) involving the Coordinator from 3 NPT schools (Baglan, Melin and Rhos) and the three TDOs during which they studied the Cynefin of the 3 schools.
- Cynefin websites for the 3 schools were created and shared with HTs and Coordinators during CYNEFIN courses in the Summer and Autumn terms 2022.
- A Cynefin Lead was appointed in September 2022 – Rhian Ashton
- All clusters received Cynefin training from the Cynefin Lead in Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023.
- Cynefin teams have been established in many NPT schools and Rhian continues to provide support with the development of their websites.

- A Traed, Cam, Naid (feet, step and jump) approach to teaching is advocated by the W(Em) team and exemplar resources have been produced and shared by the CDO during Coordinator training courses.

### **Planned for 2023 – 24**

- A Cynefin best practice course will be held in the Autumn term 2023 to share best practice with all NPT schools.

### **Actions undertaken**

The following training has been provided internally by the CDO since 2021:

- Coordinator 'Curriculum' course (x4) **\*41/45 attended**
- Coordinator 'Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus' course (x4) **\*37/45 attended**
- Resourcing The Curriculum courses for N/R, 1/2, 3/4, 5/6 teachers – (x 14) **\*138 attended in total**
- New Coordinator course (x3) **\*14 attended in total**
- Newly Qualified Teacher course (x1) **\*18 attended**
- Centralised GWRANDO adds (x7) **\*191 attended in total**
- Centralised DRILIO adds (x3) **\*80 attended in total**

The following training has been provided by The CDO and Cynefin Lead since the Summer term 2022:

- Cynefin course for Coordinators x4 **\*45 attended in total**
- Cynefin course for HTs x1 **\*20 attended**
- Cluster Cynefin adds ( Cynefin Lead only) **\*All 7 clusters received the training.**

The following in-house training for schools has been provided by TDOs since 2021:

- Tric a Chlic ( phonics) training for Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 teachers **\*108 teachers trained since 2021**

The following training has been provided by external agencies:

- Termly Welsh Language Courses for N/R 1/2 3/4 5/6
- Cymraeg bob Dydd course for teachers
- Cymraeg Bob Dydd course for TAs

(Provider – Swansea University – Dysgu Cymraeg Bae Abertawe)

- Sabbatical course – Foundation
- Sabbatical course – Intermediate

(Provider UWTSD – Rhagoriaith)

## **Welsh Resources**

The W(Em) team utilised the time not spent out in schools during the 2020 pandemic to create a wealth of new resources for Foundation Phase and KS2. All resources are housed on the NPT sharepoint on the HWB. A total of 40 Foundation Phase themes were created and 44 Key Stage 2 themes. This is still work in progress and new resources are added in response to requests from schools. These new resources were shared with Coordinators on the Curriculum course (see above) and with teaching staff on the Resourcing the Curriculum courses (see above.) In addition to sharing the resources the courses offered trained teaching staff on how to use them effectively in their classrooms as part of their Language Journey methodology.

## **Evaluation of Progress of the Equality and safer place to learn Strategy**

### **Positives**

- Recent Estyn inspections have not highlighted Welsh as an area for concern in NPT schools. Very few NPT schools have improvement recommendations for Welsh .
- All NPT schools are now working towards the targets of the Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus with 17 schools having achieved the Bronze award prior to 2020.
- All NPT school have engaged with the Cynefin training and have demonstrated a commitment to ensuring Cynefin is at the heart of their teaching. To date, 7 schools have started creating their website.
- All Welsh courses / adds run by the W(Em) team have been and continue to be well attended. Attendance was restricted to 10 per course during the 2021-22 academic year due to Covid restrictions.

- 6 teachers attended the 2 term sabbatical course this year and have now returned to their schools for term 3.
- The W(Em) team regularly receive thanks and praise from HTs , Coordinators and teaching staff for the level and quality of the ongoing support we provide.

## Challenges

- The negative impact of the pandemic on the progress of NPT schools with the **Siarter Iaith Cymraeg Campus** has been considerable. The *whole-school* nature of the initiative proved impossible during the pandemic and most schools are having to *start again*. No verification for awards has been possible since 2020. Schools are slowly beginning to rekindle the flame but it is slow progress. A 5 year NPT plan for Cymraeg Campus has been drawn up by the CDO and shared with the Siarter Leaders.
- **Welsh Language Courses with Swansea University** – Most Welsh language courses have not proved viable due to lack of response from NPT schools. Numbers have been poor since the pandemic. The demand should be there as the Curriculum has resulted in revised language patterns for all. Cost may be an issue or possibly headteachers unwilling to release staff.
- **Standards of Welsh**, particularly spoken Welsh, have fallen in our schools since the pandemic. Oracy has suffered due to the pupils' lack of daily contact with the target language. Schools are being encouraged to re-instate daily drilio and a drilio adds is available for schools who feel they need extra support. TDOs are exemplifying good drilio practices in their exemplar lessons. Teachers are being advised to concentrate on getting pupils speaking Welsh again and not to be overly concerned with book filling.

- Recruitment for the **2023-24 sabbatical course** has proved much more challenging this year.

### **Financial Impacts:**

- No implications

### **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

- The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to “pay due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
  - There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment as this is a matter for information

### **Valleys Communities Impacts:**

All Neath Port Talbot schools are included within this report

### **Workforce Impacts:**

- No implications

### **Legal Impacts:**

- No implications

### **Consultation:**

- ‘There is no requirement for external consultation on this item’

### **Recommendations:**

- Matter for information. No recommendations are required.
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### **Implementation of Decision:**

- Matter for information. No decisions are required.

### **Appendices:**

No Appendix

### **Officer Contact:**

Mike Daley – Lead Education Support Officer [m.daley@npt.gov.uk](mailto:m.daley@npt.gov.uk)  
Chris Millis – Head of Education Development [c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk)  
Alison Streefland – Teacher Development Officer with responsibility for Welsh second language support [a.streefland@npt.gov.uk](mailto:a.streefland@npt.gov.uk)