

Before the publication of their WESP in 2022 there were already 3 counties providing more than 70% of education through the medium of Welsh for year 1 children and this figure was 98.5% in Gwynedd and 91.1% on Anglesey.

Another 13 Councils indicate their intention to move schools along the continuum of Welsh-medium categories over the next ten years in their WESP. Some have already started the process for several schools while others are starting their consultation processes with stakeholders. Although there is no specific comment about moving categories in some of the plans that have been published, there is more detail on how they expand the Welsh-medium provision in the schools that are already available and plans to open new Welsh-medium schools.

As the Minister mentioned in his written statement, across Wales these plans include the development of 23 new Welsh-medium primary schools throughout Wales as well as plans to increase the capacity of 25 Welsh-medium primary schools that already exist.

It is also worth noting that the categorization framework for schools had not been published when councils were starting to tackle and draft the WESP, so although the specific framework is useful, plans to move along the language continuum will need to follow councils' corporate scrutiny processes, and many councils start the process of analyzing data and consulting with school stakeholders before being able to commit to the changes they wish to make.

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