

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchgu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Eluned,

During my Oral Assembly Questions on 26 November, I said I would update you on the current situation regarding the availability of Flying Start documents in both English and Welsh.

The Welsh Government is determined to see the Welsh language prosper and this is reflected by the fact that "*Strengthening the place of the Welsh language in everyday life*" is one of our Programme for Government commitments.

The provision of Flying Start documents in English and Welsh by the Welsh Government is guided by our existing Welsh Language Scheme, which promotes and facilitates the use of Welsh. In line with this, any legal documents and agreements issued by the Welsh Government with individuals, organisations or groups are offered in the recipient's preferred language of English or Welsh.

The Welsh Government Flying Start Strategic Guidance and additional detailed annexes have been published on the internet in both English and Welsh. Additionally, Local Authorities are advised all non-technical documents are also available in both English and Welsh.

In respect of any documents issued by Local Authorities themselves, each Local Authority is obliged to take account of its own Welsh Language Scheme.

However, the Welsh Government Flying Start Strategic Guidance promotes the use of Welsh in the programme over and above the existing statutory requirements, specifically with regard to the provision of childcare.

The Guidance makes it clear Local Authorities must put in place arrangements to meet the preference of parents for Welsh-medium or bilingual provision for childcare, although Local Authorities are not statutorily obliged to provide childcare through the language of choice. All Local Authorities must set out in their Flying Start plans the arrangements they have made in relation to the provision of Welsh medium and bilingual childcare, where parents have expressed a preference.

Additionally, in October 2013 Local Authorities were reminded of their obligations to proactively offer Welsh language childcare provision to parents, rather than relying on parents making requests for this provision .

The Welsh Government will continue to work with a wide range of partners within Flying Start including Local Authorities, the play sector, and other organisations and stakeholders, as well as children and families themselves, to ensure the Welsh Language thrives.

Regards
Lesley

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