

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales
 Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education
 Committee
 Ymchwiliad i Gynlluniau Strategol Cymraeg mewn Addysg | Inquiry into Welsh in
 Education Strategic Plans

WESP 09

Ymateb gan : ATL Cymru

Response from : ATL Cymru

<p>Question 1 – What are your views on whether Welsh in Education Strategic Plans are contributing to the outcomes and targets set out in the Welsh Government’s overarching Welsh Medium Education Strategic Plan?</p>
<p>ATL Cymru members tell us that the WESP, updated annually, is a comprehensive document. However, it remains to be seen how far, and how fast, it can be implemented.</p>
<p>If you believe that WESPs are not contributing sufficiently, how do you think this could be resolved?</p>
<p>Members tell us that whilst the WESP itself makes a positive contribution, it faces practical, cultural and financial constraints.</p>
<p>Question 2 – What are your views on whether WESPs are (or have the potential) to deliver the required change at a local authority level (for example delivering provision to meet any increased demand for Welsh medium education)?</p>
<p>Members tell us more research is needed to ensure the demand for Welsh medium education is accurately targeted.</p>
<p>If you believe that WESPs are not, or don’t have the potential, to deliver change, how do you think this could be resolved?</p>
<p>Members tell us cultural change takes time and that pupil numbers in Welsh medium schools are critical to ensuing positive change for the future. They also point to the backdrop of a difficult financial climate for local authorities.</p>
<p>Question 3 – What are your views on the arrangements for target setting; monitoring; reviewing; reporting; approving; and ensuring compliance with delivering the requirements for WESPs (and the role of the local authority and the Welsh Government in this regard)?</p>
<p>Members tell us that whilst there is a strong commitment to the WESP at a local authority level, local finances can prove a challenge. Members also question the value of target setting by WG, and suggest their annual target revisions are often slow.</p>

If you believe there are problems in this area, how do you think they could be resolved?
Our members suggest intuitive initiatives at a local level can have a real impact.
Question 4 – What are your views on whether WESPs evidence the effective interaction between the Welsh Government’s Welsh-medium education strategy and other relevant policies and legislation*? (*for example school transport policy; 21st Century Schools programme; A living language: a language for living – Moving forward policy statement; Flying Start; planning policy)
Members suggest that policies such as free transport to the Welsh medium sector have a positive impact.
If you believe there are problems in this area, how do you think they could be resolved?
Members suggest more research and forward planning is needed to ensure that any expansion of the Welsh medium provision at primary level leads to appropriate provision at secondary level too.
Question 5 – What are your views on whether the outcomes of WESPs deliver equal outcomes for all pupils, including for example, primary/secondary pupils or children from low income households.
Our members did not comment on this area.
If you believe that the outcome of WESPs do not deliver equal outcomes, how do you think this could be resolved?
Question 6 - If you had to make one recommendation to the Welsh Government from all the points you have made, what would that recommendation be?
Our members suggest that Welsh Government need to encourage and nurture change. We would have concern that more research is needed, especially relating to the federalisation of Welsh and English medium schools, to ensure this policy does not have an impact on the ethos of the school.
Question 7 - Do you have any other comments or issues you wish to raise that have not been covered by the specific questions?

