



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ87992

Rhys ab Owen AS
MS for South Wales Central
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25 April 2023

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for your recent question regarding measuring the impact on the Welsh language when deciding net zero school locations.

The Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme provides significant capital investment to support local authorities to meet learner demand within their areas. Since January 2022, all new schools delivered under the Programme are required to be net zero carbon in operation along with a 20% reduction in embodied carbon during construction.

Our ambition is that all learners in Wales have the opportunity to become Welsh speakers wherever, and in whichever school they are educated. Our approach to achieving this is to further expand Welsh medium education and provide more support for learners in English medium schools to become confident new speakers as well.

On Friday 24 March I announced the three new net-zero primary schools to be delivered as part of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Schools' Challenge. I was delighted to announce that two of the three projects were Welsh-medium primary schools providing an investment of up to £30 million to deliver state of the art net-zero carbon buildings which will support their local communities. The third project will see up to £15m invested to deliver the new Glyn-coch Primary School in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

I asked officials to work in partnership with officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf local authority to ensure the proposed project in Glyn-coch supported the delivery of their WESP. As a result of these discussions, the authority has committed to undertaking a full review of the proposed capacity of the new school to ensure it meets the needs of the local community and its WESP targets. This review will focus on three key areas: capacity, childcare provision and the language category of the school.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

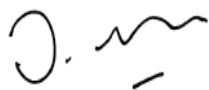
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The authority has committed to establishing separate Welsh and English medium childcare provision on the school site. They have also committed to reducing the proposed English medium capacity of the school to ensure this reflects actual and projected demand within the catchment area.

Following the reduction of the proposed English medium capacity, consideration will be given to utilising the surplus area to accommodate Welsh medium provision as part of a future change in category.

Welsh Government officials will continue to work in partnership with the local authority throughout the development of the project to identify an agreed approach prior to consideration of the full business case.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg

Minister for Education and Welsh Language