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Llywodraeth Cymru
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Consultation Document

The draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2013

Date of issue: **28 June 2013**

Action required: Responses by **23 August 2013**

The draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2013

Overview	<p>The National Assembly for Wales passed the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 in January 2013. This Act requires local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for approval or modification by Welsh Ministers.</p> <p>A Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is a plan containing a local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions for, as well as its targets for, improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh• the standards of Welsh-medium education• the teaching of Welsh <p>in its area.</p> <p>WESPs also comprise a report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous plan or previous revised plan.</p>
How to respond	<p>Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed/posted to the address below to arrive by 23 August 2013 at the latest.</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations</p>
Contact details	<p>For further information: The Welsh in Education Unit (WEU) Welsh Language Division Department for Education and Skills Welsh Government Tŷ'r Afon Bedwas Caerphilly CF83 8WT</p> <p>e-mail: welsh.education@wales.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 01686 620255</p>

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Overview of the proposed Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations (“the Regulations”)

The National Assembly for Wales passed the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (“the Act”) in January 2013. Section 87 of the Act confers the power on Welsh Ministers to make regulations with regard to:

Measuring the demand

Regulations made under Section 86 of the Act will require local authorities to measure the demand for Welsh-medium education if –

- (a) more than 50% of pupils in maintained schools in its area or that part of its area which is the subject of the Welsh medium education assessment are assessed in the –
 - (i.) Welsh language development area of learning in the assessment year; or
 - (ii.) language, literacy and communication skills area of learning through the medium of English in the assessment year;
- (b) the local authority has not carried out a Welsh medium education assessment of the whole of its area in the 3 years immediately preceding the assessment year; and
- (c) the Welsh Ministers inform the local authority in writing that it must do so.

The regulations permit a local authority to carry out an assessment of the whole of its area or part. The Welsh Ministers may determine the extent of the local authority’s area to be assessed. The instrument used to measure the demand must include the questions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and the information set out in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.

Duration of plan

The first plan will have effect for the period commencing on 1 April 2014 and ending on 31 March 2017 and subsequent plans will have effect for the period of three years commencing on 1 April in the year when the previous plan period expires.

Form and content of plan

1.5 Schedule 2 of the Regulations will set out what local authorities must set out in their WESPs and must be accompanied by the supporting information set out in Schedule 3. Schedule 2 will mirror the current guidelines approved for the preparation and submission of voluntary WESPs as approved by you in SF/LA/5385/11.

Submission to the Welsh Ministers

The first plan would need to be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for approval no later than 20 December 2013 and every subsequent plan would then be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for approval no later than 20 December every three years.

Timing and manner of publication of plan

The first plan will need to be published no later than 1 June 2014 and subsequent plans (or revised plans) must be published no later than 1 April in the year in which the plan period for that plan commences. The local authority must publish the plan (or revised plan) by placing it on the local authority's website; and making copies of the plan to be read by members of the public at the local authority's offices; and any other appropriate place

Consultation

Local authorities will be required to consult with the following organisations on their draft plan:

- the governing body of maintained schools in the local authority's area;
- the Children's Commissioner for Wales;
- the Welsh Language Commissioner;
- the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership;
- school councils;
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales;
- neighbouring authorities;
- head teachers of each maintained school;
- FEIs;
- foundation and voluntary schools;
- such organisations providing services to children and young people as the local authority considers appropriate; and
- such other persons or bodies as appear to the local authority to be appropriate.

Review of the plan

The local authority will be required to review the plan no later than 20 December every year, commencing in 2014 and consult such persons as they consider appropriate during the course of the review. Any revisions will need to be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for approval no later than 20 December 2014. Any revised plan will be submitted to the Welsh Ministers for approval no later than 20 December in every subsequent year.

Report on implementation of the plan (or revised plan).

The local authority will be required to publish a report of the progress made by the authority in implementing its plan (or revised plan) no later than 1 June every year commencing in 2014. The local authority must send a copy of the report to the Welsh Ministers no later than 20 December in every year the plan is reviewed.