Atodiad C / Appendix C

Sylwadau'r Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg ar gynnig Ysgol Bro Caereinion

18 Medi 2023

Mae aelodau'r Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg yn gefnogol iawn i'r cynnig i newid cyfrwng iaith Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Mae hwn yn ddatblygiad hir ddisgwyliedig, sydd wedi cael ei drafod ers sawl blwyddyn, a bydd yn sicrhau mynediad i addysg uwchradd Gymraeg gyflawn i ddisgyblion yn y rhan hwn o Bowys, gan alluogi i'r cyngor gwrdd ag un o brif amcanion y CSCA.

Byddai'r datblygiad hwn yn darparu llwybr clir trwy addysg Gymraeg i ddisgyblion yn yr ardal, o'r cyfnod meithrin hyd at ddarpariaeth uwchradd ac ôl-16. Mae darpariaeth cyn-ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn Cylch Meithrin yn bodoli'n barod, a chylch Ti a Fi ar gyfer rhieni a phlant ifanc. Byddai'r Fforwm yn disgwyl i hyn arwain at dwf cyffredinol yn y niferoedd sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg yn yr ardal, a thwf yn y niferoedd sy'n parhau i dderbyn addysg Gymraeg wrth drosglwyddo i'r cyfnod uwchradd yn arbennig.

Mae'r Fforwm yn cefnogi'r cynnig i ddechrau cyflwyno'r newid yn y cyfrwng iaith yn y cyfnod cynradd a'r cyfnod uwchradd ar yr un pryd, a fyddai'n galluogi i'r ysgol symud ar hyd y continwwm ynghynt. Bydd hyn yn sicrhau y gellir darparu mynediad i addysg uwchradd Gymraeg gyflawn ynghynt na phe bai'r cynnig yn cael ei gyflwyno yn y cyfnod cynradd yn unig.

Awgrymwyd rhai pwyntiau y bydd angen eu hystyried wrth i'r broses symud ymlaen:

- Mae angen mwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'r gefnogaeth trochi hwyr fydd ar gael i alluogi i ddisgyblion sy'n derbyn addysg cyfrwng Saesneg ar hyn o bryd drosglwyddo i addysg Gymraeg;
- Er mai'r cynnig yw i newid cyfrwng iaith y ddarpariaeth o fis Medi 2025, dylid sicrhau bod addysg Gymraeg yn cael ei hyrwyddo yn yr ardal yn y cyfnod cyn hynny, i annog disgyblion i ddewis addysg Gymraeg yn yr ysgol o fis Medi 2024. Gall partneriaid sy'n aelodau o'r Fforwm gefnogi gyda hyn;
- Bydd yn bwysig sicrhau perthynas cryf gyda'r ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg eraill yn yr ardal, yn arbennig Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd ac Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng, er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn rhan o 'deulu' yr ysgol o'r cychwyn, i sicrhau eu bod yn teimlo'n rhan o'r datblygiad hwn, ac i annog disgyblion o'r ysgolion hyn i drosglwyddo i'r ddarpariaeth uwchradd yn Ysgol Bro Caereinion;
- Bydd angen i'r Cyngor ailedrych ar y polisi cludiant i gydfynd efo'r datblygiad hwn, i sicrhau bod y polisi yn annog mynediad i ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg cyflawn;
- Bydd angen gweithio efo rhieni i sicrhau eu cefnogaeth i'r datblygiad, yn enwedig rhieni a oedd yn gobeithio y byddai datblygiad uwchradd yn ardal Dyffryn Hafren;
- Dylid annog cydweithio rhwng Ysgol Bro Caereinion ac Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, er mwyn galluogi'r ddwy ysgol i ehangu cyfleoedd i ddisgyblion a goresgyn trafferthion gyda recriwtio;
- Bydd angen ystyried unrhyw fuddsoddiad cyfalaf sydd ei angen i sicrhau ffyniant yr ysgol wrth baratoi Rhaglen Amlinellol Strategol (SOP) y Cyngor ar gyfer rhaglen 9 mlynedd rhaglen fuddsoddi Cymunedau Dysgu Cynaliadwy y Llywodraeth, y bydd angen ei baratoi dros y misoedd nesaf.

Comments by the Welsh-medium Education Forum on the Ysgol Bro Caereinion proposal

18 September 2023

Members of the Welsh Education Forum are very supportive of the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language medium. This is a long overdue development, which has been discussed for several years, and will ensure access to a full Welsh-medium secondary education for pupils in this part of Powys, enabling the council to meet one of the main objectives of its WESP.

This development would provide a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education for pupils in the area, from nursery through to secondary and post-16 provision. Welsh-medium pre-school provision is already available at the Cylch Meithrin, and a Cylch Ti a Fi is also available for parents and young children. The Forum would expect this to lead to an overall growth in the numbers choosing Welsh-medium education in the area, and a growth in the numbers continuing to receive Welsh-medium education when transferring to the secondary phase in particular.

The Forum supports the proposal to start introducing the change in the language medium in the primary and secondary phases at the same time, which would enable the school to move along the continuum more quickly. This will ensure that access to a complete Welsh-medium secondary education can be provided earlier than if the proposal was only introduced in the primary phase.

Some points were suggested that will need to be considered as the process moves forward:

- More information is needed about the late immersion support that will be available to enable pupils currently receiving English medium education to transfer to Welsh medium education;
- Although the proposal is to change the language medium of provision from September 2025, Welsh medium education should be promoted in the area in the lead up to that, to encourage pupils to choose Welsh medium education at school from September 2024. Partners that are members of the Forum can support with this;
- It will be important to ensure strong relationships with the other Welsh-medium schools in the area, particularly Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Welshpool, to ensure that they are part of the school’s 'family' from the outset, to ensure that they feel part of this development, and to encourage pupils from these schools to transfer to secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion;
- The Council will need to revisit the transport policy to support this development, to ensure that the policy encourages access to full Welsh-medium provision;
- It will be necessary to work with parents to ensure their support for the development, particularly parents who hoped there would be a secondary development in the Severn Valley area;
- Collaboration between Ysgol Bro Caereinion and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should be encouraged, to enable both schools to expand the opportunities for pupils and to overcome difficulties with recruitment;
- Any capital investment required to ensure the school's success will need to be considered when preparing the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's 9-year Sustainable Communities for Learning investment programme, which will need to be prepared over the coming months.