rhagolwg
CYLCHLYTHYR RHIENI
DROS ADDYSG GYMRAEG
RHIFYN 22, AWST 2009

Cyhoeddir Rhagolwg gan Rieni dros Addysg Gymraeg, Tŷ Cymru, Greenwood Close, Parc Busnes Porth Caerdydd, Caerdydd CF23 8RD ffôn: 029 2073 9207 ffacs: 02920 739201

Polisi addysg Powys ar chwâl

Gobaith y dyfodol? Uned Gymraeg Ysgol Uwchradd Llanfair-ym-Muallt

MAE CYNGOR wedi derbyn bod ei pholisi addysg Gymraeg ar gyfer un ardal yn ei sir yn annigonol. Mae cyfres o blant o Ysgol y Bannau yn Aberhonddu wedi ennill yr hawl yn ddiweddar i gael ariannu eu cludiant i ysgolion uwchradd amgen i ysgol y dalgylch ym mis Medi oherwydd nad yw ysgol honno, sef Brecon High, yn cynnig digon o addysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Daw hyn yn dilyn cynsail a osodwyd ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn pan ddyfarnwyd cludiant i 3 disgybl o Uned Gymraeg Ysgol Pontsenni i fynychu Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Mae Cyngor Sir Powys wedi mynnu taw i Brecon High dylai cyn-ddisgyblion Ysgol y Bannau fynd achos taw dyma yw'r "ysgol Gymraeg" sy'n gwasanaethu eu hardal nhw. Adwaenir Brecon High fel ysgol Gategori 3, sef "Ysgol Uwchradd cyfrwng Saesneg yn bennaf ond â defnydd sylweddol o'r Gymraeg". Fodd bynnag, mewn ysgol felly, dichon i cynlleied â 20% o'r dysgu fod trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, ac yn sicr nid yw llawer o rieni lleol yn ffyddiog y bydd eu plant yn derbyn addysg Gymraeg gyflawn. Mae'r dysgu cyfrwng Cymraeg yn sicr yn dirywio wrth symud o un cyfnod allweddol i'r nesaf ac erbyn cyrraedd Cyfnodau Allweddol 4 a 5 prin iawn yw'r ddarpariaeth. Ymhellach i hynny, nodwyd pryder nad oedd ethos yr ysgol yn creu hinsawdd a fyddai'n cyfoethogi ac atgyfnerthu profiadau Cymraeg a Chymreig y disgyblion, fel yr hyn sy'n arferol mewn ysgol Gymraeg.

Yn dilyn gwrandawiadau apêl diweddar cynygiwyd cludiant i ddau blentyn o Ysgol y Bannau fynychu Ysgol Uwchradd Llanfair-ym-Muallt gan fod y ddarpariaeth dysgu cyfrwng Cymraeg a'r ethos Gymraeg yno, er nad yn cynnig addysg Cymraeg gyflawn, yn sylweddol well na'r hyn a gynigir yn Brecon High.

Yn fwy arwyddocaol byth, sicrhawyd cludiant i ddisgyblion fynychu ysgolion uwchradd penodedig Cymraeg y tu allan i'r sir. Cafodd un plentyn gludiant i Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera yng Nghastell-nedd Port Talbot ac un arall i Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw yn Nhorfaen.

Mae Cyngor Sir Powys bellach yn y broses o adolygu eu darpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ne'r sir ac o ganlyniad wedi cynnig canoli'r ddarpariaeth bresennol a gynigir gan y 2 ysgol. Datganwyd y bydd rhaid cyflawni'r gwaith erbyn 2010.

Bydd gweithgor arbennig yn cynnwys penaethiaid lleol, llywodraethwyr, cynghorwyr sir a swyddogion y cyngor yn cyfarfod yn ystod y misoedd nesaf i arwain ar hyn. Yn y cyfamser mae RhAG yn galw ar Bowys yn awr i gyhoeddi'n swyddogol pa ysgol sy'n ddynodedig ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n dymuno addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ne'r sir ac i hysbysu rhieni o hynny hefyd.

Dr Enlli Thomas

Darlith RhAG

BYDD DARLITH Flynyddol Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg ar faes yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol eleni yn destun cryn ddiddordeb gyda selogion addysg Gymraeg. Bydd Dr Enlli Thomas yn traethu ar "Manteision addysg ddwyieithog: ymchwil gyfoes yn y maes."

Cynhelir Darlith Flynyddol RhAG ar ddydd Gwener, 7 Awst 2009 11yb tan 12 canol dydd ym Mhabell y Cymdeithasau (mynediad am ddim).

Darlithydd mewn Addysg ym Mhrifysgol Bangor yw Enlli Thomas ac aelod craidd o bwyllgor gweithredu'r Ganolfan ESRC dros Ymchwil i Ddwyieithrwydd.

Sir Gau Ceg

MAE ADRAN addysg Sir Gâr wedi ceisio atal gwybodaeth am fanteision addysg Gymraeg rhag cael ei dosbarthu ymhlith ysgolion Dyffryn Tywi.

Daeth i sylw RhAG bod swyddog o adran addysg y cyngor wedi anfon at holl benaethiaid ysgolion cynradd Dyffryn Tywi yn eu rhybuddio rhag dosbarthu unrhyw ddeunydd ar ran RhAG. Roedd RhAG Dinefwr wedi gofyn i ysgolion cynradd yr ardal ddosbarthu llythyr yn tynnu sylw at fanteision addysg Gymraeg a dwyieithrwydd yn sgîl cynllluniau i ail-drefnu addysg yr ardal.

Cysylltwyd gyda'r ysgolion i ofyn am eu cydweithrediad i ddosbarthu'r llythyr hwn law yn llaw â holiadur a ryddhawyd gan Gyngor Sir Gar yn gofyn i rieni fynegi eu barn o ran cyfrwng iaith addysg uwchradd eu plant.

"Sbardunwyd RhAG i lunio'r llythyr oherwydd pryder nad oedd yr holiadur yn cynnwys digon o gyd-destun a gwybodaeth am addysg Gymraeg a dwyieithrwydd i alluogi rhieni i wneud penderfyniad ar fater mor dyngedfennol i ddyfodol y Gymraeg," meddai Cefin Campbell, Cadeirydd RhAG Dinefwr/Dyffryn Tywi. "Mae'n fater o siom felly bod swyddogion wedi ceisio atal rhieni rhag cael y wybodaeth yma, sydd wedi'r cyfan ond yn adlewyrchu polisi'r Awdurdod ei hun ar bwysigrwydd dilyniant mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg."

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Cydnabyddir cefnogaeth Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg i'r cyhoeddiad hwn ac i'r wefan www.rhag.net.

Os oes angen gwybodaeth o unrhyw fath am yr iaith Gymraeg, galwch y Llinell Gyswllt:

0845 6076070
(cyfradd galwadau lleol)
Llun-Gwener
10.00am-12.30pm/1.30-3.30pm

RhAG yn cynnig ateb i'r galw am ysgolion ar frys

MAE'R MUDIAD Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg yn galw ar awdurdodau lleol i ystyried fformiwla newydd o sefydlu ysgolion Cymraeg yn gyflym ar ôl canfod angen.

Mae RhAG wedi rhyddhau papur trafod a ysgrifennwyd gan un o'u aelodau, y cyfreithiwr Michael Jones, sydd yn galw am sefydlu dosbarthiadau cychwynnol.

Mae'r arolygon mesur galw sydd eisioes wedi'u cynnal mewn rhai rhannau o Gymru, gan gynnwys Abertawe, Casnewydd a Wrecsam, yn dangos bod y galw ar gyfartaledd oddeutu tair gwaith yn uwch na'r ddarpariaeth.

Yn y gorffennol, gwelwyd ei bod yn cymryd 7-10 mlynedd i sefydlu ysgol Gymraeg ar ôl nodi'r angen. Mewn rhai achosion lle mae awdurdodau'n anwybyddu'r angen, gall y broses gymryd hyd at 20 mlynedd.

Bwriad y papur yw nodi sut mae ysgolion Cymraeg wedi'u sefydlu yng Nghaerdydd dros y blynyddoedd trwy sefydlu dosbarthiadau cychwynnol a fyddai maes o law yn troi'n ysgolion wrth i'r niferoedd dyfu.

Mae patrwm Caerdydd yn deillio'n wreiddiol o batrwm a sefydlwyd yng nghyfnod awdurdod addysg Sir De Morgannwg. Wrth wraidd y patrwm yr oedd egwyddor bwysig a sefydlwyd gan y diweddar Gyngorydd Emyr Currie Jones, sef na fyddai'r awdurdod addysg fyth yn gwrthod lle i blentyn oedd yn dymuno addysg Gymraeg. Yn arwyddocaol iawn dim ond un o'r 11 ysgol sydd wedi'u hagor yng Nghaerdydd ers 1982 a agorwyd fel ysgol go iawn o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

Dadleua RhAG fod manteision amlwg wrth sefydlu dosbarthiadau cyhwynnol cyn sefydlu ysgol yn barhaol. Mae'r dull yn caniatáu sefydlu ysgol yn gyflym ac o'r herwydd nid oes angen chwilio am adeiladau newydd ar unwaith. Nid oes ychwaith angen penodi pennaeth newydd am y tro gan y byddai'r dosbarth yn dod dan reolaeth pennaeth ysgol Gymraeg gyfagos. Yn aml ni cheir gwrthwynebiad lleol a thrwy hynny gellir sefydlu'r ysgol trwy orchymyn y sir heb orfod aros am ganiatâd Gweinidog Addysg y Cynulliad. Yn arwyddocaol iawn hefyd mae'r drefn yn gweithio mewn cydweithrediad â'r sector Saesneg gan ddefnyddio llefydd gwag mewn ysgolion sydd eisioes yn bodoli.

Gall sicrhau felly fod addysg Gymraeg yn medru ffynnu ac ehangu trwy weithdrefnau sy'n sicrhau cyflawni hynny o fewn terfynnau amser pendant a rhesymol.

Galwad frys

MAE GAN Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru linell ffôn gymorth rhad lle gellir gael gwybodaeth neu gyngor ynglŷn ag unrhyw fater sydd yn ymwneud â dyslecsia - ond mae dirfawr eisiau gwirfoddolwyr i gynnig y gwasanaeth yn Gymraeg.

Gall unrhyw un sydd yn barod i fod yn ymgynghorydd dros y ffôn weithio o'i gartref. Yr unig beth sydd ei angen yw ffôn, gan fod y prosiect yn medru wneud trefniant priodol i ail-gyfeirio cysylltwyr i rif cartref y gwirfoddolwr. Yr unig ymrwymiad y gofynnir amdano wrth wirfoddolwyr yw o leiaf tair awr y mis (rhwng 5 a 8yh).

Cynigir hyfforddiant pwrpasol i unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb.

Os ydych am fwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â bod yn wirfoddolwr, neu am Prosiect Dyslecsia Cymru, cysylltwch â Non Edwards, Cydlynydd y Prosiect, yn Tŷ Parc, Parc Teifi, Aberteifi, SA43 1EW, ffôn: 0808 1800 110 neu drwy e-bost admin@welshdyslexia.org

"Tipyn o freuddwyd"

Rhodri Morgan yn dadorchuddio'r plac gydag Alun Jones, pennaeth Ysgol Llwynderw

CYNHALIWYD seremoni swyddogol i agor adeilad newydd pwrpasol cyntaf i ysgol gynradd Gymraeg yn Abertawe yn ddiweddar.

Agorodd Ysgol Gynradd Llwynderw yn 2002, ond ar safle Ysgol Esgob Gore yn ardal Sgeti. Wrth i'r ysgol dyfu, dechreuodd y Cyngor Sir chwilio am safle newydd, ond cafwyd nifer o anawsterau cyn medru penderfynu'n derfynol i sefydlu'r ysgol yn ei chartref newydd yn West Cross. Mae'r ysgol wedi ymgartrefu yn eu hadeilad ers blwyddyn erbyn hyn a disgwylir iddi dyfu yn y pen draw i ddal 350 o ddisgyblion.

Roedd Prif Weinidog Cymru, Rhodri Morgan, yn bresennol yn y seremoni yn ogystal â Maer y ddinas a rhai o'r cynghorwyr sir.

Yn ôl Heini Gruffudd, Is-Gadeirydd RhAG ac un sydd wedi bod yn flaenllaw gyda RhAG yn lleol yn Abertawe: "Cafwyd addewid y byddai'r hen Gyngor Sir yn dod o hyd i safle, a gyda'r Cyngor newydd hwn nawr, dyma ni saith mlynedd yn ddiweddarach yn cael cartref newydd. Mae'n dipyn o chwyldro â dweud y gwir ein bod ni'n cael y safle yma. Mae gweld sefydlu'r ysgol hon yn dipyn o freuddwyd."

Yr hen Went yn gwegian

ERBYN hyn mae wyth o ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr awdurdodau lleol a fu'n rhan o'r hen Went (Blaenau Gwent, Casnewydd, Torfaen a Mynwy), a'r rhain i gyd yn danfon eu plant i'r ysgol uwchradd sy'n gwasanaethu'r ardal, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw yn Nhorfaen.

Yn yr ardal lle mae'r nifer lleiaf o siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Nghymru, mae'r ysgol yn llwyddiannus tu hwnt ac yn ymfalchïo ei bod yn datblygu pobl ifanc sy'n hollol ddwyieithog cyn iddynt adael yr ysgol.

Ond y llynedd, daeth Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw i bwynt argyfwng. Roedd yr ysgol wedi'i ordanysgrifio i'r pwynt lle byddai diffyg 343 o lefydd erbyn Medi 2009. Yn sgil yr argyfwng cafodd nifer o blant o'r ysgolion cynradd eu gwrthod yn 2008, gan gynnwys 80% o flwyddyn 6 Ysgol y Ffin. Gan nad oedd opsiynau ymarferol amgen i'w cysidro, byddai hyn wedi golygu bod y plant wedi eu gwrthod rhag cael mynediad i addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Ysgrifennwyd dros 200 o lythyron i aelodau seneddol, cynghorwyr a'r awdurdodau lleol ac aeth aelodau RhAG â'u hachos i Bwyllgor Deisebau'r Cynulliad. Cafwyd cytundeb tymor byr gan Gonsortiwm yr Awdurdodau Lleol yn 2008 i alluogi holl ddisgyblion blwyddyn 6 i fynychu'r ysgol ac o'r diwedd ym mis Mai eleni cytundeb i wario dros £12m ar yr ysgol i'w hehangu. Bydd yr ysgol yn awr yn gallu derbyn holl blant yr ysgolion cynradd hyd at 2013/14.

Disgwyliwn weld ysgol uwchradd ychwanegol yn yr ardal erbyn 2013/14 ac efallai trydedd ysgol gynradd yn Mynwy hefyd wrth ystyried y twf yn y sector cynradd. - *Lynne Feakes*

rhagolwg

NEWS FROM PARENTS FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION

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Powys education policy in tatters

Future hope? The Welsh medium unit at Builth Wells High School

A COUNCIL has accepted that its Welsh medium education policy for one area is not up to the job. A numer of children from Ysgol y Bannau Welsh medium primary in Brecon have won the right recently to have their transport to alternative secondary schools outside of south Powys funded in September as the school serving the catchment area, Brecon High, does not offer sufficient Welsh medium provision.

They have won this following a precedent established at the beginning of the year when three children from the Welsh medium unit at Ysgol Pontsenni were awarded transport costs to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Powys County Council has in the past insisted that former Ysgol y Bannau pupils should attend Brecon High since that is the "Welsh Medium school" which serves their area. Brecon High is classed as a Category 3 school, i.e. "predominantly English medium secondary school with significant use of Welsh". However, in such schools it is possible for as little as 20% of tuition to be available through the medium of Welsh, and certainly many local parents are not confident that their children will receive a rounded Welsh Medium education.

And the Welsh medium teaching is certain to reduce as pupils move from one key stage to the next with the provision becoming very thin indeed by Key Stages 4&5. Additionally, concern has been expressed that the ethos of the school is not conducive to enriching and reinforcing pupil's experiences of Welsh, as should be expected in a Welsh medium school.

Followin a recent appeal hearing, transport was offered to children from Ysgol y Bannau primary to attend Builth Wells High School since the Welsh medium provision in that school is significantly more supportive than that available in Brecon High. Also this is underpinned by a Welsh language ethos, although it has to be said that this is not equivalent to a completely Welsh medium school. Even more significantly, transport was secured for pupils to attend Welsh medium secondary schools outside of the county. One child secured transport to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in Neath Port Talbot and another to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Torfaen.

Powys County Council has now had to review its Welsh medium secondary provision in the south of the county and as a consequence has suggested bringing together the current provision at the two school. This will have to be achieved by 2010.

A working group including local heads, governors, councillors and council officers will meet over the next months to lead on this. In the meantime RhAG is demanding the council make an official announcement on which is the local designated Welsh medium school ensuring parents are given clear information

Dr Enlli Thomas

RhAG lecture

THE ANNUAL RhAG lecture at the National Eisteddfod in Bala this year will be of great interest to supporters of Welsh medium education. Dr Enlli Thomas will be speaking on "The advantages of bilingual education: latest research in the field".

The Annual RhAG lecture will take place on Friday 7th August 2009 11am-12noon in the Societies Pavilion (free entrance).

Enlli Thomas is a lecturer in Education at Bangor University and a core member of the executive of the ESRC Centre for Research on Bilingualism in Theory and Practice.

County gag

CARMARTHENSHIRE education department has attempted to prevent information about the advantages of Welsh medium education being distributed to schools in the Towy Valley.

RhAG has learned that an officer in the council education deparment has written to all Towy Valley primary school heads warning them not to distribute any material from RhAG. RhAG Dinefwr had asked primary schools in the area to send out a letter drawing attention to the advantages of Welsh medium education and bilingualism in view of plans to restructure education in the area.

Schools had been asked for their co-operation to distribute this letter in conjunction with a questionnaire released by Camarthenshire County Council asking parents to express their opinion about which language medium they desire for their children's secondary education.

"RhAG was forced to draw up the letter because there was concern the questionnaire did not give the context and enough information about Welsh medium education and bilingualism to enable parents to make a decision on an issue so vital to the future of the Welsh language." said Cefin Campbell, Chair of RhAG Dinefwr/Dyffryn Tywi. "It's very disappointing council officers have tried to stop parents finding out."

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The Welsh Language Board has kindly supported both this publication and RhAG's website, www.rhag.net.

If you need information of any kind about the Welsh Language, ring the Board's Link Line to Welsh:

0845 6076070

(local call rate)

Monday-Friday
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RhAG's answer to emergency in school numbers

THE ORGANISATION representing parents for Welsh medium education is calling on local authorities to consider a new formula for setting up Welsh schools quickly after assessing the need.

RhAG has issued a discussion paper, written by one of its members, the lawyer Michael Jones, which calls for the establishment of starter classes.

Surveys measuring demand for Welsh medium education already conducted in parts of Wales, including Swansea, Newport and Wrexham, show that on average the demand is around three times more than the provision.

In the past, it has taken 7-10 years to set up a Welsh medium school after establishing the need. In some cases where authorities have ignored the need, the process can take up to 20 years.

The intention of the paper is to set out how Welsh medium schools have been established in Cardiff over the years on the basis of starter classes which later turn into proper schools as pupil numbers rise.

The Cardiff system originates from a pattern established by the then South Glamorgan education authority. At the core of the system was the principle established by the late Cllr Emyr Currie Jones that the education authority would never refuse a place to a child seeking Welsh medium education. Significantly only one out of the 11 schools which have opened in Cardiff since 1982 has been a school in its own right from the beginning.

RhAG argues that there are clear advantages to establishing starter classes before setting up a permanent school. The method permits a school to be established quickly and there is no need to look for new buildings immediately. Neither is there a need to appoint a new head to begin with, since the class will fall under the control of a head in a neighbouring Welsh medium school. Often there is no local opposition and so the school can be set up through a county order instead of having to wait for the permission of the Assembly Education Minister. Very significantly as well, the system operates in co-operation with the English medium sector by taking up empty places that already exist in a school.

It can ensure, therefore, that Welsh medium education flourishes and can expand within reasonable and specific timescales.

Emergency call for volunteers

THE WELSH Dyslexia Project runs a free telephone helpline which provides information and advice about any matter concerning dyslexia - but there is a urgent need for volunteers to offer the service through the medium of Welsh.

Anybody who is prepared to act as a telephone councillor can work from their own home. The only requirement is that you have a telephone, since the Project can then arrange for calls to be redirected to the volunteer's home number. The only requirement from the point of view of commitment is that a volunteer can work at least three hours a month (between 5 and 8pm).

Comprehensive training is offered to anyone who is interested.

If you require further information about becoming a volunteer, or about the Welsh Dyslexia Project in general, please contact Non Edwards, project Co-odinator, Tŷ Parc, Parc Teifi, Fishguard, SA43 1EW, tel: 0808 1800 110 or email: admin@welshdyslexia.org

"A dream come true"

Rhodri Morgan unveils the plaque, with Alun Jones, head of Ysgol Llwynderw

AN OFFICIAL ceremony to open the first purpose built building for a Welsh medium school in Swansea was held recently.

Ysgol Gynradd Llwynderw actually opened in 2002, but on the site of Bishop Gore School in the Sketty area. As the school grew, the county council began to look for a new site, but there were a number of setbacks until eventually it was decided to base the school permanently in its new site at West Cross. The school has been in its new building for a year now and it is expected eventually to grow to 350 pupils.

Rhodri Morgan, Wales First Minister, was present at the ceremony, as well as the Mayor of the City and some county councillors.

Heini Gruffudd, Vice-Chair of RhAG and a leading figure within RhAG Abertawe, said: "There was a commitment by the former county council to find a site, and here we are seven years later under a new council. Frankly, it's been a bit of a revolution. Seeing this school eventually up and running is like a dream come true."

Gwent just keeps going

THERE ARE now eight Welsh medium primary schools now in the local authorities that make up the former county of Gwent (Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouth), all of them sending their children to the secondary school which serves the area, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Torfaen.

In an area which has the lowest number of Welsh speakers in Wales, the school is incredibly successful and takes pride in developing young people who are completely bilingual before they leave school.

But last year, Gwynllyw reached crisis point. The school was oversubscribed to the point where there was going to be 343 too few places by September 2009. In the face of this crisis, many children from the primary schools were refused places for 2008, including 80% of Year 6 at Ysgol y Ffin. Since there were no practical alternatives under consideration, it would have meant that these children would have been refused access to Welsh medium education.

Over 200 letters were written to MPs, councillors and local authorities and RhAG members took their case to the Assembly. A short term agreement was reached with the Local Authority Consortium in 2008 to enable all Year 6 pupils to go to the school and at last in September this year an agreement to spend over £12m expanding the school over the next few years. The school will now be able to accept all the primary school children until 2013/14.

We hope to see an additional secondary school in the area by 2013/14 and perhaps a third primary school in Monmouthshire bearing in mind the continued growth. - *Lynne Feakes*