

Autumn Conference 2025

POLICY MOTION

A Bilingual Future, Not a Monolingual System

Conference Notes:

That both Welsh and English have equal status as the official language of Wales.

- A. That the survival and growth of the Welsh language is a critical element of Wales' continued national identity, culture, and heritage.
- B. That Welsh-Medium education continues to grow across Wales, but some council areas still do not have dedicated Welsh Medium Secondary provision.
- C. The Welsh Liberal Democrats are significantly increasing Welsh Medium Secondary Provision within Powys.
- D. Gwynedd Council has proposed making all schools in the area Welsh-medium by default.
- E. Research concludes that Welsh medium, as opposed to dual stream, provides the highest levels of bilingualism within pupils.
- F. That concern is being expressed at the impact of not providing Secondary Education in both languages has on the economic development of an area.
- G. That research shows immersion in Welsh improves language fluency, but that compulsion may have negative effects on educational attainment and social inclusion.

Conference Believes:

- I. That every child in Wales should leave school confident and competent in both Welsh and English.
- II. That every child is entitled to receive education within their council area in either English or Welsh.
- III. That the additional costs of provision of education in whichever language is in the minority should not become perceived a burden on the local council tax payer or a barrier to provision.
- IV. That diversity in educational provision helps meet the varied needs of pupils and supports parental choice.
- V. That promoting the Welsh language should be inclusive, not coercive.
- VI. That Liberal Democrats must continue to champion both the revival of the Welsh

Autumn Conference 2025

POLICY MOTION

language and the rights of families to choose the best educational path for their children.

Conference Calls for:

1. Increased investment in bilingual teaching resources, Welsh language teacher training, and community-based learning.
2. A Welsh Liberal Democrats Government to place a requirement on all councils to maintain at least one school within one hours drive of all pupils in each language.
3. A review of language policy in schools to ensure it promotes bilingualism and inclusion, rather than creating divisions.
4. Welsh Government to establish a balancing fund to ensure any additional cost of creating and supporting single language medium education is not a barrier to growth.
5. A public campaign to promote the benefits of bilingualism, encouraging more families to choose Welsh-medium or bilingual education voluntarily.
6. A reaffirmation that education policy must be guided by liberal values: evidence, pluralism, inclusion, and respect for individual rights.