

3 August 2022

Dear

ATISN 16508 regarding British Sign Language (BSL) provision in schools in Wales

Information requested

Thank you for your request received on 25 July 2022. You asked for:

Information about how many primary and secondary schools in each local authority in Wales teach BSL or are planning to teach BSL as part of their curriculum from September 2022, the reasons why some choose not to include BSL in their school curriculum; and how Welsh Government is supporting the teaching of BSL in schools.

Our response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require about the number of schools which teach BSL as part of their curriculum and the reasons schools give for choosing not to teach BSL is not held by the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government does not routinely collect data about any of the modern languages taught in primary or secondary schools. This information is held by regional school improvement services. From September 2022 schools will be able to choose to introduce BSL as part of their curriculum (in addition to continued provision for Deaf BSL users). Information about BSL will be captured by local authorities, regional educational consortia, and partnerships in the same way as for other languages.

The information you requested regarding what Welsh Government is doing to improve the teaching of BSL, and details of support for schools in implementing the Curriculum for Wales guidance from September 2022, is enclosed. Some of the information below is already publicly available. While we are not required to include these in this response, we are doing so to provide a fuller picture of the work to support BSL in the Curriculum for Wales.

1. The Curriculum for Wales includes guidance for BSL alongside Welsh, English and other languages. This is publicly available at:

[https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/languages-literacy-and-communication/designing-your-curriculum/#british-sign-language-\(bsl\)](https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/languages-literacy-and-communication/designing-your-curriculum/#british-sign-language-(bsl))

This guidance is for schools with Deaf BSL users as well as for schools that choose to teach BSL as a second, third or subsequent language for other learners.

2. The Curriculum for Wales: Implementation Plan is also publicly available at:

[Curriculum for Wales: Implementation plan - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

This outlines Welsh Government's approach to supporting the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales from September 2022 (in general terms – not specifically in relation to BSL). Regional school improvement services are funded by Welsh Government to support schools with the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.

3. Slides from Curriculum for Wales BSL information sessions for schools.
4. A playlist of BSL resources curated by practitioners, publicly available on Hwb, the all-Wales learning platform: <https://hwb.gov.wales/go/5ezryj>
5. Specifications for BSL resources for schools which have been commissioned by Welsh Government.
6. The Terms of Reference for the Curriculum for Wales BSL Glossary group.
7. The publicly available Education Wales YouTube channel includes the following Iaith Arwyddion Prydain/ British Sign Language playlist:
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTZvaU9CIF5uXukiCEYN3IDJXFK3s37Vq>

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely