

## HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

### Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 24-03-2016

1	<b>Name</b>	Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)
2	<b>Language</b>	Welsh
3	<b>Working area</b> (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Education, teaching
4	<b>Email and phone number for contact</b>	Ceri Owen <a href="mailto:ceri@rhag.net">ceri@rhag.net</a> 02920739207 07912175403
5	<b>Social networks</b> (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: <a href="http://www.rhag.net/?iaith=eng&amp;id">http://www.rhag.net/?iaith=eng&amp;id</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/rhieni.gymraeg">https://www.facebook.com/rhieni.gymraeg</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/RhAG1">https://twitter.com/RhAG1</a>

#### DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	<b>Description of the practices</b>	Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg
2	<b>Brief description of the practices</b>	<p>RhAG has existed for around 60 years, as a parents' movement which campaigns for Welsh medium school which provide bilingual education in Wales. RhAG is a recognised Charity. It was a voluntary movement for fifty years, and still depends on local, voluntary work. Nevertheless, around 10 years ago, it was recognized by a government grant which is sufficient to employ one full time development officer.</p> <p>RhAG has always been involved in local campaigns aimed at establishing further Welsh medium primary and secondary schools. Campaigns can last from a few years to ten years before coming to fruition. The campaigns depend a lot on local activists who are willing to put pressure on local councillors and local authority personnel.</p> <p>Local campaigns include the following activities: 1) co-operating with Mudiad Meithrin to set up pre-school classes, 2) publishing leaflets for community distribution, in association with Welsh medium schools and the Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives) organisations (which are government-funded, and operate locally), 3) publicity in the local press and on radio and television, 4) meeting council representatives to urge the setting up of further Welsh medium schools, and 5) co-operating with the education department of the Welsh Assembly to discuss local demand for Welsh medium education.</p>

		Besides, national campaigns have included the following: 1) pressure on the Government to ensure that local authorities measure the demand for Welsh medium education –this is now a legal obligation– and 2) pressure on the Government to ensure local authorities provide a detailed Welsh education development plan –this is now a legal obligation–. In spite of this many local authorities’ plans are vague, and the Government has accepted plans which are clearly insufficient to meet demand.
3	<b>Precedents</b> (reasons, needs...)	Need of support of Welsh education development
4	<b>Objectives</b>	Welsh medium primary and secondary schools which provide bilingual education in Wales
5	<b>Main and close working areas</b>	Primary and secondary schools providing bilingual education
6	<b>Collaborating entities and their working areas</b>	The Welsh Government
7	<b>Implementation period</b>	Ongoing for sixty years

**FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES**

8	<b>Expansion</b> (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	Most of the work undertaken by RhAG is work in progress. Pressure from parents for Welsh medium education has been ongoing for sixty years. By today 23 % of pupils in Wales attend Welsh medium primary schools, compared to the 7% or so of pupils who live in Welsh medium homes
9	<b>Investment</b> (economic, time, people...)	One full time development officer
10	<b>Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary and secondary state education in Wales is today in the hands of the Welsh Government. Local authorities, of which there are at present 22, are responsible for the setting up and upkeep of these schools. Each school is run individually by a board of governors which consists of parents, local government representatives, community representatives and teachers.</li> <li>• The Welsh Government has developed a Welsh medium education strategy whose aim is to develop Welsh medium education.</li> <li>• Each local authority is responsible for developing Welsh medium education in its own area</li> <li>• One local authority, Gwynedd, provides Welsh medium education in all its primary schools and most of its secondary schools. Two other local authorities, Ceredigion and Sir Gâr, provide Welsh medium primary education for most of their pupils. These counties are in west and north-west Wales. Due to this, RhAG has worked hardest in the more anglicized areas of north-east, South and South-east Wales.</li> </ul>

11	<b>Documentation, reference material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.rhag.net/dogfennau.php">http://www.rhag.net/dogfennau.php</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.rhag.net/newyddion.php?iaith=eng">http://www.rhag.net/newyddion.php?iaith=eng</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.rhag.net/rhestr.php?iaith=eng">http://www.rhag.net/rhestr.php?iaith=eng</a></li> </ul>
12	<b>Other relevant information</b>	<p><b>Other aspects of education:</b></p> <p>RhAG has put pressure on the Government on many aspects of education and education support. This includes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Adequate Welsh medium provision for pupils with special needs</li> <li>ii. Adequate Welsh medium literacy help for pupils with needs</li> <li>iii. Adequate Welsh medium provision for other educational services, including health and psychology</li> <li>iv. More rigorous continuity for pupils studying Welsh as a first language between the primary, secondary, further education and university sectors</li> </ol> <p><b>Ensuring adequate transport to Welsh Medium Schools:</b></p> <p>Welsh medium schools depend on good transport as they are on the whole further away from homes than English medium schools. There is statutory home-school transport for children aged 5-16, who live further than 2 miles from a primary school or 3 miles from a secondary school. In view of possible cuts to 16+ transport RhAG has campaigned on this issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. RhAG put pressure on the Government to include adequate home-school transport by law. This has been successful, but it has not yet been tested for 16+ pupils</li> <li>ii. RhAG has conducted research on the effect of withdrawing 16+ transport on Welsh medium education and has put pressure on local authorities to provide free or cheap 16+ transport</li> <li>iii. RhAG has challenged various local authorities successfully when they have not provided transport to a nearer Welsh medium school in a neighbouring authority</li> </ol>