



What challenges do learners face in Welsh educational settings?

Module: supporting the learner

ECIE4001

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Looking at personal
challenges
as well as systemic
barriers.

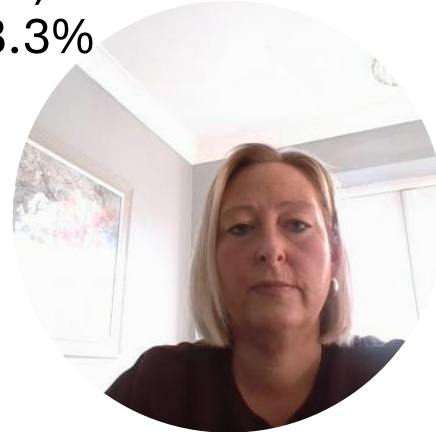
- Setting “A” - Welsh comprehensive school of 960 pupils in Carmarthenshire
- **There are 4051 pupils eligible for free school meals.** (*Gov.wales, 2020*)
- Could this be a reason why Welsh learners are challenged?



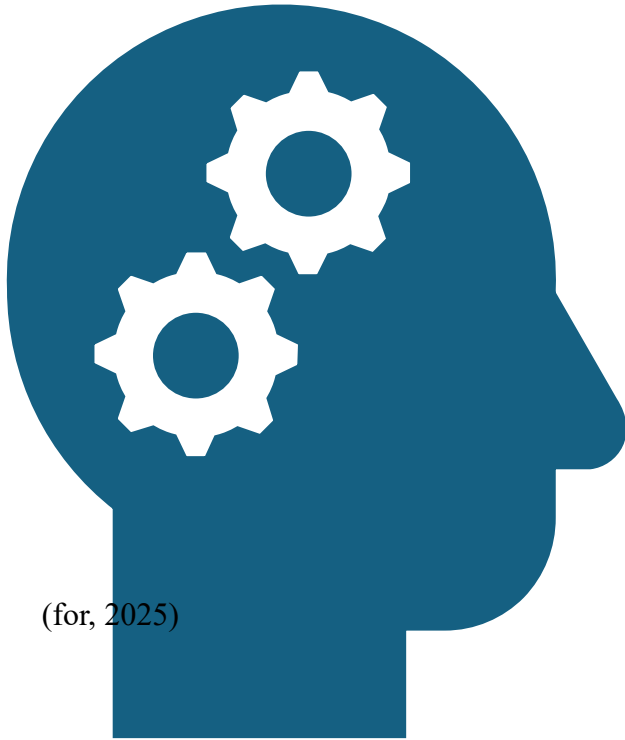
Personal

- Poverty-
- Additional learning needs
- Behaviour – exclusion rate?
- Home life
- Health – mental and physical
- Attendance – (eFSM) 86.3% and (non- Efms) 93.3%

(Gov.wales2020)



Sanford's Theory of Challenge and Support



(for, 2025)

Sanford believed that for growth and personal development to occur, a student needs to have a challenge/support balance.





Poverty

Currently in Wales **8 children in a class of 30** are **living in poverty**. This affects their daily lives, education and future life opportunities.

- Uniform
- Health
- Home
- Behaviour

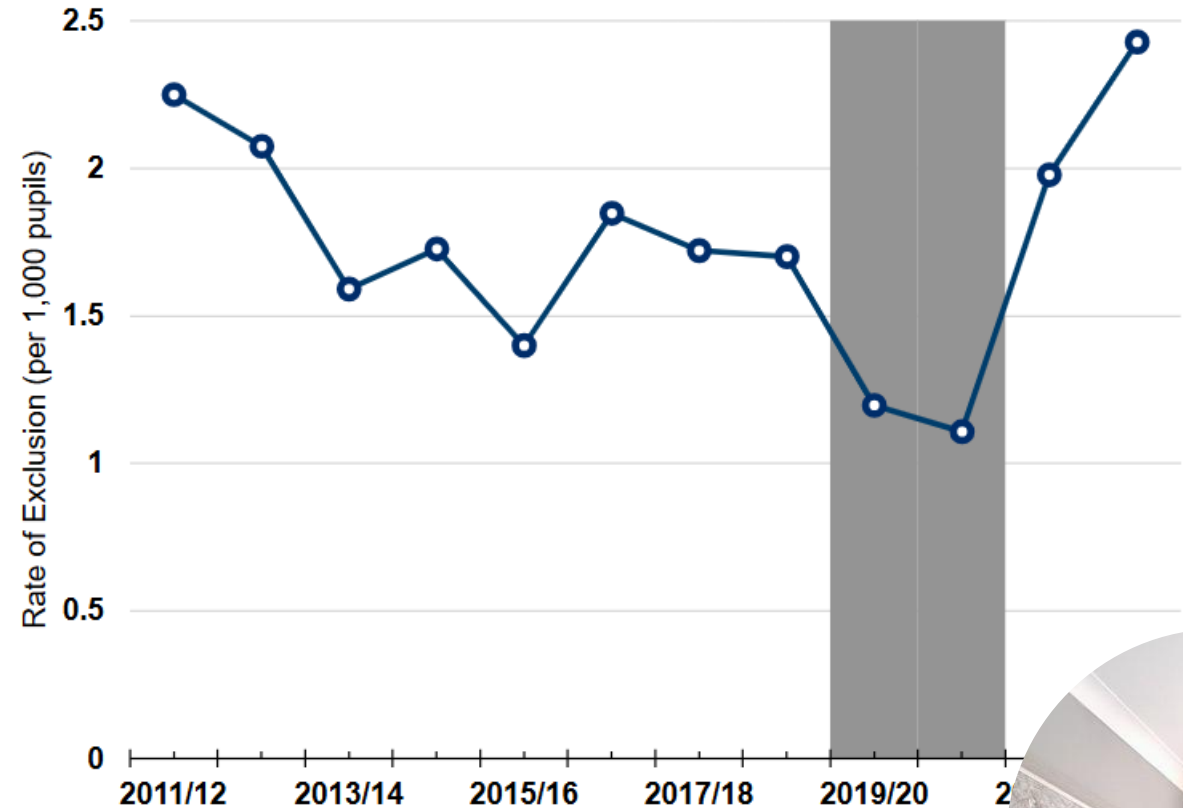
“Unable to think or concentrate due to worrying about my parents, not able to go to school parents are unable to put credit on the electricity and gas meters so being cold and not able to have hot meals or even enough food as its too expensive” (child/young person aged 10-13)

(Limegreentangerin,



The rate of fixed-term exclusions is almost 3.5 times higher for those eligible for FSM than those not eligible for FSM.

Figure 2: Rate of Fixed-Term Exclusions over 5 days, 2011/12 to 2022/23





Systemic Barriers

Systemic barriers are policies, practices, and cultural norms that create disadvantages for certain groups, preventing equal access to opportunities and resources.

Welsh learners face systemic barriers such as limited access to Welsh-medium resources, a shortage of qualified Welsh-speaking educators, and challenges in the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system.



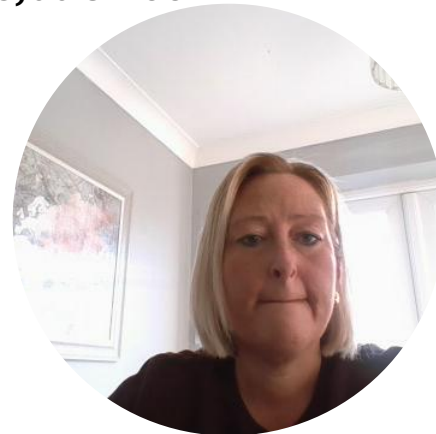


Systemic barriers that Welsh learners face:

- Access to specialist teachers and resources
- Awaiting alternative settings and intervention
- Classes- mixed ability.
- Inconsistencies in provision-

According to the 2021 Census, the number of Welsh speakers has dropped from 562,000 to 538,00 since 2011.

(Gov.wales2022)

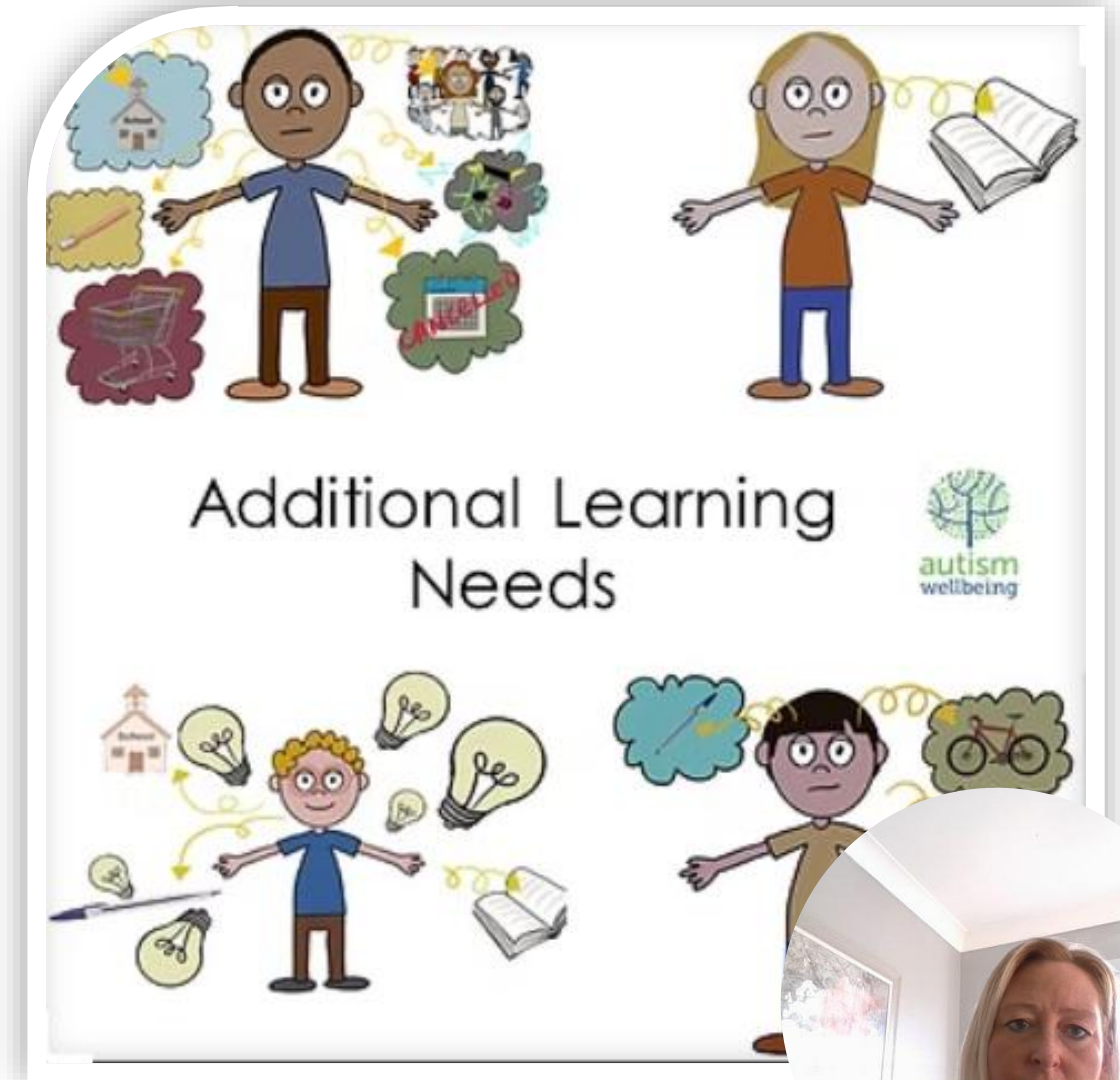


Policy- Additional learning needs

- Are children and young people with additional learning need at a systemic disadvantage in Welsh school settings?
- 20% of pupils in Wales have additional learning needs
- ALN policy- all children have the right support, at the right time.

(“Supporting Children with Additional Learning Needs | Autism Wellbeing”)

(Wightwick)



Conclusion

- Setting A
- Personal and Systemic
- Aln
- Positive approaches
- Key focus: equality
- Feeling valued, respected and supported.



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