

Funding for the development of the Meithrin on the Ysgol Santes Tudful school site has been secured for several key reasons:

- Flying Start childcare has recently expanded to include all children aged 2–3 years old in Merthyr. During our planning for this expansion, it became clear that childcare provision in the area was limited - particularly Welsh-medium provision. This new development will help address that gap.
- The setting will offer funded childcare places through both the Flying Start programme and the Childcare Offer for Wales. Because the Meithrin will be based on the school grounds, families will benefit from convenient wrap-around care - removing the need to travel between different locations for drop-offs and pick-ups. We're also exploring the possibility of out-of-school provision in the future, depending on demand.
- This new Welsh-medium provision supports our commitment to increasing the number of Welsh speakers, in line with the Cymraeg 2050 strategy and MTCBC Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The WESP has ambitious targets to increase the number of children accessing their education through the medium of Welsh, this new provision on the school site, will encourage more families to choose a Welsh-medium route for their children from an early age.
- The development aligns with the Welsh Government's focus on co-location of services, as the Meithrin will be situated directly on the school site.
- Finally, this location will support a smooth and supportive transition between early years and Foundation Phase learning. Close proximity to the Welsh-medium primary school will foster strong relationships between childcare and school staff, ensuring a positive experience for both children and their families as they progress into school life.