



**LLYSIAU O GYMRU AR GYFER YSGOLION CREU DYFODOL IACHACH I GYMRU**  
**WELSH VEG IN SCHOOLS GROWING A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR WALES**

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2025

Dear Headteacher

We're delighted to inform you that your school has been selected by your Local Authority Catering team to take part in the [Welsh Veg in Schools](#) initiative.

Co-ordinated by [Food Sense Wales](#), **Welsh Veg in Schools** is working with partners that includes wholesalers and growers and is getting more locally produced organic vegetables into school lunches. The initiative is also ensuring the following benefits:

- Improving children's access to healthy, local food
- Supporting Welsh farmers and growers
- Building strong, resilient local food systems
- Tackling climate change and increasing biodiversity
- Reducing reliance on imported produce

In 2022, only 6% of vegetables bought for the public sector in Wales were sourced locally. Welsh Veg in Schools is helping to change that.

What began as a small pilot project in Cardiff three years ago has since grown into a movement and in 2024, **Welsh Veg in Schools** served 200,000 portions of fresh, organic veg in more than 200 schools across Wales.

During the 2025 autumn term, approximately 400 schools across 13 local authority areas in Wales will take part. We're working closely with the catering team in your local authority area to swap some of the conventional veg with locally grown, organic produce. Your local authority catering managers are liaising with your school kitchens and are aware, that where possible, your conventional produce will be swapped with local, organic vegetables. There will be no change to the cost of the produce as difference in price is paid by the **Welsh Veg in Schools** pilot.

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### Who benefits?

- Primary-aged children in selected schools across Wales
- Schools – who will now receive fresh, seasonal vegetables such as carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, cucumbers, and more
- Farmers and growers who receive a secure market for the produce
- Communities – through job creation, environmental benefits, and stronger local food networks

### The impact so far

Since its launch in 2022 with just one grower and one tonne of courgettes, the project has grown significantly:

- **2024:**
  - 14 tonnes of veg delivered
  - 200+ schools involved
  - 200,000 portions served
  - 3 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e saved
  - 35% increase in biodiversity
  - 1.2 full-time jobs created
- **2025:**
  - 15 growers involved
  - 60 tonnes of veg = 1 million portions
  - 12 local authorities participating

Looking ahead to 2030, our vision is for 25% of all primary school vegetables to be local and organic.

We're pleased that your school is taking part in this initiative and have created some content that will help you communicate your school's role in Welsh Veg in Schools, these include:

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- Information about a poster competition that pupils from your school are eligible to take part in
- A PDF flyer to circulate to staff and parents informing them about the initiative
- A communications toolkit including social media messages, newsletter content, links and pictures

We'll also be in touch during this school year with news of some additional classroom resources.

It's our hope that Welsh Veg in Schools starts to change the local food system in Wales, with public bodies purchasing locally grown food and serving it to our children. We want all children in Wales to benefit from eating a variety of good quality, fresh vegetables, grown in a way that's good for people and the planet.

If you'd like any further information, please contact us via email: [foodsensewales@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:foodsensewales@wales.nhs.uk)

Kind regards

Dr Amber Wheeler, Lead Researcher, Welsh Veg in Schools and the Food Sense Wales team

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