



Play, Learn & Grow Together

Llangyfelach Primary School
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Welsh Policy

The preservation and expansion of the Welsh language is a priority for the people of Wales, and as educators it is our responsibility to encourage its use and develop an appreciation for its role in the culture and heritage of Wales, ensuring a range of new educational experiences which will enable our pupils to develop both intellectually and linguistically.

Language is fundamental to all learning and is a basic mode of communication. It is the interaction of personal experience with listening, talking, reading and writing which develops linguistic confidence and competence.

We feel it is essential that Welsh become the second functional language in the life of the School. Using 'incidental Welsh' in all functions of the school, and creating a 'Welsh ethos' that enables children to understand their Welsh heritage and background will support the pupils' development in communicating in two languages; switching between them with ease and confidence.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

Aims

- To help the children understand the Welsh language and to use it to express themselves.
- To enrich the personalities of our children and to support them in contributing to Wales and its cultures.
- To develop an appreciation of the Welsh language and an understanding of its place and purpose in the World today.
- To work with other schools to share and develop good practice in order to improve this policy.

Objectives

- To enable children to have a basic understanding of Welsh.
- To enable children to use simple Welsh phrases in everyday situations.
- To encourage children to use the Welsh language whenever possible in a real life context.

Learning and Teaching Guidelines

Welsh is taught by the class teacher, with weekly visits by the Welsh peripatetic teacher. At these times they work together.

Lessons all have clear learning objectives, which are shared with and understood by the children. They are at all times aware of what skill they are going to develop through the activity, and what outcomes the teacher is looking for in their work.

The school uses a range of teaching methods, each closely aligned to the Cornerstone project being used as a stimulus and the skills being developed by the lesson. A mix of whole-class, group and individual teaching is used, and teaching styles vary according to the needs of the pupils. In this way teachers ensure that the pupils perform according to their aptitudes and abilities.

Simple Welsh songs, rhymes, books, DVDs and websites encourage children to speak and pronounce properly. Pupils are encouraged to read labels, posters, worksheets, and a variety of books with understanding.

We believe it is vitally important that Welsh is used in all areas of the curriculum and in all parts of school life. The importance of using language naturally in the everyday life of the school is emphasised at all times. We aim to use Welsh in such a way as to ensure that our pupils hear the language as a natural part of school life.

The register, date, weather chart and greetings are all done bilingually at the start of each school day, led by the Helpwr Y Dydd. Classroom commands are also spoken in Welsh and English by pupils, teacher and support staff. Welsh songs are sung in assembly and in our singing times, and form an important part of many of our concerts.

Planning and Organisation

Curriculum planning is managed in three phases.

Long Term Planning is based on the Wales Assembly Government's National Curriculum 2008, which gives expectations for the year group in its subject levels, and provides guidance for planning and management. The skills continuum provided by the Government is also used in planning the Welsh curriculum for the year.

Medium Term Planning organises the teaching of Welsh into termly or half-termly sections. Where possible, we believe Welsh should be taught in a cross-curricular way. Teachers use Cornerstone projects as a stimulus for their teaching as well as teaching Welsh patterns discreetly. The planning is more detailed and the objectives are more specific in nature, responding to the perceived needs of each class. It also ensures a balanced distribution of work is undertaken across each term. Work is separated into weekly/fortnightly sections. This supports the short term planning. The Welsh genres to be studied are planned by the class teacher in conjunction with the Welsh peripatetic teacher.

Short Term Planning details the Welsh curriculum over the week/fortnight. Lessons are planned in detail and specific class objectives are set. Individual learning goals are also set for each pupil.

The teachers collaborate among themselves and with the Welsh peripatetic staff on the planning of Welsh to ensure parity in provision and to share expertise. The Flic a Flac scheme is used within the Foundation Phase and lower KS2 alongside topic based work. Schemes of work have been compiled by the County Welsh Advisory Services and they form the basis of the medium-term planning for upper KS2.

Links with the wider community

Links have been developed with neighbouring Primary schools to look at bilingualism and to promote the Welsh Language. Links have also been developed with the Urdd where pupils have worked with their Key Workers to develop playground games and take part in bilingual PE sessions.

Monitoring and Assessment

Welsh provision is monitored by the Welsh coordinator. She examines pupils' work and monitors classroom practice. She examines pupils' work and monitors classroom practice. She also ensures all members of staff have appropriate training to enable them to deliver the curriculum to the expected standard of excellence.

The Welsh coordinator receives training from the local authority to support her in her role of coordinator. The coordinator meets with the Head teacher regularly to review Welsh provision in the school.

There is no legal requirement for pupils to be measured against the external National Curriculum levels until the end of the Key Stage.

However, at Key Stage Two, all pupils are assessed according to their curriculum level at the end of each year.

Assessment in Welsh will be based on,

- Written/recorded work;
- Discussions with pupils;
- Teacher observations;

Standardisation

Standardisation meetings take place half-termly. Teachers meet to discuss a specific genre of writing along with a piece of oracy and reading through the collective discussion of standards and progression across the school. The leveled work is then collated within a standardisation portfolio.

Additional Educational Needs

Practical activities, such as the playing of Welsh games are introduced to encourage communication and participation in the Welsh language. Instructions may be simplified and extra time allowed for the completion of tasks.

The more able pupils are given opportunities to:-

- Respond to given tasks and record work in a variety of ways;
- Be given greater independence when attempting to read or write in the Welsh language.

- Be introduced to a greater number of patterns and opportunities to extend sentences.

Cwricwlwm Cymreig

The school takes every opportunity to create a Welsh ethos. Our pupils are made aware that Wales has its own language and culture. Every curricular policy has a Cwricwlwm Cymreig focus. Welsh is given a prominent role in all school activities and a prominent visual role within the school.

Efforts are also made to ensure that teaching materials across the curriculum have a distinctive Welsh flavour. School assemblies are also undertaken which celebrate the ethos and culture of Wales.

Welsh Week

In accordance with St David's Day celebrations, Llangyfelach Primary school holds a 'Welsh Week'. Lessons are planned with a specific focus on Cwricwlwm Cymreig. All activities carried out are a focus for competitions within our school Eisteddfod. During Welsh Week we also involve the whole school community in our celebrations with a Welsh Evening celebrating song, music, dance, craft and stalls promoting our Welsh culture and ethos.