

## Ysgol Sefydledig Caergeiliog Foundation School



### Welsh Language Policy

#### Introduction

Ysgol Sefydledig Caergeiliog Foundation School is a bilingual school and as such offers our pupils numerous opportunities to view and experience the Welsh language positively. Welsh and English are functional languages of the school.

At Caergeiliog Foundation School we aim to encourage enthusiasm and an awareness of the rich cultural background that Wales possesses. By doing so, it is hoped that pupils will develop a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and a willingness to learn, so that they leave the school with a solid foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding of Welsh on which to build. It is also hoped that pupils will have gained an understanding of Wales through the 'Curriculum Cymreig'. We aim to provide equal opportunities in Welsh for ALL pupils, regardless of their nationality, gender or academic ability. Our Curriculum Cymreig helps pupils to understand and celebrate the distinctive quality of living and learning in Wales in the twenty-first century, to identify their own sense of Welshness and to feel a heightened sense of belonging to their local community and country. It also helps to foster in pupils an understanding of an outward-looking and international Wales, promoting global citizenship and concern for sustainable development.

#### Aims and Objectives

- To create a Welsh ethos within the school through giving high status to the language and encouraging use of incidental Welsh in day to day routines and practices. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To develop pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding of Welsh in accordance with Curriculum For Wales 2022. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To develop oral skills in Welsh – through listening to a range of Welsh speakers, including visitors, teachers and non-teaching staff, television programmes, staged productions in or out of school etc. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

- To develop understanding of and responding intelligibly to spoken Welsh, encouraging use of correct pronunciation and intonation as much as possible. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To provide plentiful opportunities for pupils to develop skills in reading Welsh, developing their understanding of what they read and how they respond to texts read. Pupils should be given access to a wide range of reading material as well as being encouraged to use their own and each others' work as reading matter. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To develop writing skills through being given opportunities to write intelligibly in a variety of ways and genres –in order to show meaning, imagination, information and personal feelings/opinions. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To provide opportunities for those children who desire to enhance their Welsh oral skills and understanding. The bilingual nature of Caergeiliog Foundation School enhances this as pupils have access to bilingual assemblies, joint playtimes and social activities. This is further enhanced by the provision of bilingual after school clubs. Pupils are encouraged to enter Urdd Eisteddfod competitions.

### Welsh in the Foundation Phase

During the Foundation Phase, pupils learn to use and communicate in Welsh to the best of their ability. Pupils listen to Welsh being spoken and respond appropriately in familiar situations, using a range of patterns. They are encouraged to communicate their needs in Welsh and are increasingly exposed to Welsh. Skills are developed through communicating in a range of enjoyable, practical planned activities using a range of stimuli that build on and increase pupils' previous knowledge and experiences, in safe and stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environments. The pupils' oral experiences are used to develop their reading skills and they are encouraged to choose and use Welsh reading materials. They listen to a range of stimuli, including audio-visual material and ICT interactive software in Welsh. Pupils are given a wide range of opportunities in order to develop their writing skills in Welsh. Language skills learned in one language support the development of knowledge and skills in another.

All Foundation Phase classes have a daily Welsh language session focusing on speaking and listening led by pupils e.g. 'Helpwr Heddiw' sessions. During these sessions pupils practise language skills and patterns linked to their current learning.

### Welsh in Key Stage 2

At Key Stage 2, learners build on the skills, knowledge and understanding acquired in the

Foundation Phase. This progress is achieved through an integrated programme of oracy, reading and writing. Learners are presented with experiences and opportunities that interrelate the requirements of the Skills and Range sections of the programmes of study.

Learners are encouraged to speak with confidence, working as individuals and as members of a group by using a range of vocabulary, phrases, patterns, sentences and questions. The experiences presented to them include opportunities to take part in drama and role play activities. They develop as active and responsive listeners, and experience a wide range of texts, including authentic materials, as they develop as independent and effective readers. They write in response to a range of stimuli with a growing understanding of the need to speak and write in a way that is appropriate to the purpose and audience. They work with increasing accuracy and they become reflective and evaluative in relation to their own and others' achievements.

### The Language Charter

The Language Charter (Siarter Iaith) provides a clear framework for the school and is used to promote a strong Welsh ethos and use of incidental Welsh both in and beyond the classroom. The Language Charter exhorts participation from every member of the school workforce. The school council, the pupils and their parents, school governors and the wider community are all encouraged to take full ownership of it. The Welsh Committee (Pwyllgor Cymraeg) is instrumental in leading and driving the Language Charter forward.

The Welsh Committee is a student body with representatives from all year groups whose task it is to monitor and raise standards in Welsh in the School. They meet regularly throughout the year and carry out the following in addition to any other duties that might arise from time to time:

- Ensure Welsh has a visual place in the classrooms and around the school e.g. signage, displays, newsletters and school website, undertaking learning walks and reporting back to teachers. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Ensure that Welsh is given an audible place in all areas of school life e.g. on the playground, classroom routines, school assemblies, concerts, outdoor activities, dinner hall, displays, school website and school visits, and rewarding pupils appropriately. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Reward the use of incidental Welsh in and out of the classroom with praise and stickers. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Inform pupils and teachers of the weekly language pattern in morning assemblies. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## Lesson Planning

- Welsh is a subject that lends itself to cross-curricular links, such as History (in learning about Welsh customs, traditions, people and local places), Music (in learning Welsh songs), English (in reading Welsh Legends, Folk Tales & Poems and when using Reading Books that are set in Wales) and ICT. The Curriculum Cymreig Policy and Areas of Learning & Experience policies cover this in more detail. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Opportunities to include Thinking skills and ICT skills within Welsh lessons are highlighted for class teachers within the Topic Plans. Class teachers are responsible for ensuring presentation of such opportunities within Welsh lessons in their class. These skills should be highlighted within class teachers' planning. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Learners develop their thinking across the curriculum through the processes of planning, developing and reflecting. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- The teaching of Welsh supports the social development of our pupils through the way we expect them to work with each other in lessons. We group and pair pupils so that they work together, and we give them the chance to discuss their ideas and results via Assessment for Learning. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- Learning Welsh contributes to learners' personal and social education by developing their awareness of the role and differing contribution of minority and global languages within society. By developing their appreciation of two cultures, they are better able to appreciate other cultures and be sympathetic to them. They work cooperatively and respect the role of others.
- <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Links to the School Improvement Plan <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>The provision of Welsh and bilingualism will be reviewed in line with the School Improvement Plan priorities. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## Additional Learning Needs

We teach Welsh to all pupils, whatever their ability and individual needs. We achieve this by planning to meet the needs of all pupils whether they have Additional Learning Needs, are more able, have disabilities, are from different social backgrounds, different ethnic groups or diverse linguistic backgrounds.

We meet the needs of all pupils by:

- Providing resources that reflect diversity. [L] [SEP]
- Using a range of teaching strategies. [L] [SEP]
- Differentiating tasks and resources. [L] [SEP]
- Providing different levels of support - teacher, ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) or another child. [L] [SEP]
- Taking into account the targets set in the pupils' Individual Development Plans (IDPs) where relevant. [L] [SEP]
- Planning for pupils who are more able and talented. [L] [SEP]
- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses and differentiated outcomes. [L] [SEP]
- Giving opportunities for pupils to become independent learners and increase their self-esteem. [L] [SEP]
- If and when appropriate, grouping pupils by ability in class and setting different tasks [L] [SEP] for each ability group. [L] [SEP]
- Pupils who already possess a knowledge of Welsh, are provided with sufficient challenge.
- [L] [SEP] Resources A number of resources can be located in every class throughout the School. Classroom and shared area displays include Welsh vocabulary or sentences. Most displays in shared areas are bilingual. [L] [SEP]
- [L] [SEP] Parental Support and Links with the Community [L] [SEP] We will seek to inform all stakeholders in our school of the benefits of the Welsh language: [L] [SEP]
- We welcome and invite Welsh-speaking parents and visitors to support the teaching of Welsh and the development of Bilingualism in school. [L] [SEP]
- Parents are invited to activities in the school where pupils perform and use Welsh e.g. assemblies, concerts. [L] [SEP]

- We aim to provide opportunities for visits to local events and establishments. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- We invite drama and theatre groups to perform e.g. Mewn Cymeriad/ In Character. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
- To develop links with outside organisations e.g. Wcw & Cip magazine, Urdd. <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

### Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Use of Assessment for Learning methodology allows for ongoing assessment of Oracy, Reading and Writing. Pupils' work is assessed in every class and teachers make short term assessments which are used to help adjust their daily plans. These short-term assessments are closely matched to the lesson focus and are included in our lesson evaluations.

Teachers use INCERTS to track and evaluate learning and to measure progress. Pupils will be assessed through the use of assessment tools in the New Curriculum for Wales.

All teachers report to parents on their children's progress in termly Parent Meetings and annually in School Reports.

NFER Personalised Assessments are completed twice during the academic year. Parents receive results of these assessments.

The school supports the Welsh Government's vision of 'Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers'

"The Welsh language is one of the treasures of Wales. It is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. Our ambition as Welsh Government is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a million by 2050. This is certainly a challenging ambition, but a challenge we believe is worthwhile and necessary if we are to secure the vitality of the language for future generations."

Policy updated 23.05.2022