

Ysgol Aberconwy

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Welsh Language & Bilingualism Policy

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Welsh Language and Bilingualism Policy

Principles

A million Welsh speakers by 2050

“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.

Education is central to our vision, but we must ensure our young people come out of the education system ready and proud to use the language in all contexts.

The overarching message in this document is that we need to reach a position where the Welsh language is an integral element of all aspects of everyday life. If we want to achieve this, the whole nation has to be part of the journey - fluent Welsh speakers, Welsh speakers who are reluctant to use the language, new speakers who have learned the language, and also those who do not consider themselves to be Welsh speakers. Everyone has a part to play, and we want everyone to contribute to realising our ambition.

By raising our expectations and adopting an ambitious vision we have the potential to change the future outlook for the language. Together, we can enable the Welsh language to grow, and create a truly bilingual Wales with a living language for all”.

In accordance with the Government’s ‘A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050’ strategy, we at Ysgol Aberconwy are committed to maintaining and further developing a bilingual ethos. Education is central to the Welsh government’s vision and we support the vision that young people come out of the education system ready and proud to use the language in all contexts.

Ysgol Aberconwy reflects and reinforces the Conwy County language policy in its administration, its everyday life and its pastoral arrangements, as well as in its academic provision.

Purpose

The bilingual policy at Ysgol Aberconwy aims to ensure that staff and students are given the educational incentive to nurture language skills, which will lead to bilingualism and appropriate skills in both Welsh and English. The aim is to allow children from various linguistic backgrounds to understand and use the Welsh language as well as English to express themselves, their feelings, ideas, knowledge and imagination. This will ensure continuity and development of bilingual education from primary to secondary school. There is a commitment from the Governing Body, the Headteacher and staff to promote bilingualism. It is the responsibility of every member of staff to deliver this plan.

Objectives

- 1. The Welsh language is visible and audible as a relevant, respected and natural means of communication throughout the school.**
- 2. The Welsh language is evident, dynamic and integrated into the Teaching and Learning at Ysgol Aberconwy in all departments and provides an awareness of the Welsh dimension in curriculum provision and extra-curricular activities.**
- 3. Pupils' experiences are enriched by events which are an integral part of school life.**

Practice

English is the main teaching medium for Ysgol Aberconwy, with Welsh taught mainly as a second language across all ages and ability ranges. Pupils have the option to continue studying Welsh as a first language supported by bilingual teaching in some areas where possible. The school conforms to the requirements of the National Curriculum and delivers a programme to study Welsh at the appropriate level up to the end of KS4.

Ysgol Aberconwy:

- Ensures sufficient teaching time, specialist staff and in-service training to enable the policy to be implemented effectively;
- Encourages an increase in continuity and achievement from year to year, by regularly reviewing the scheme of work and teaching methods;
- Aims at providing materials that stimulate the linguistic experiences offered to pupils;
- Ensures an ethos that realises the communicative potential of both spoken and written Welsh;
- Creates opportunities to emphasise Wales' literary heritage.

Every teacher teaching Welsh should:-

- Develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in order to enable pupils to communicate effectively through speaking and writing, to read for pleasure and to seek information;
- Develop language skills in appropriate learning situations that enable pupils to use Welsh as a language that meets the needs of the age;
- Appreciate the variety of linguistic backgrounds that pupils have;
- Ensure that appropriate material is available for the pupil's age and the learning purpose;
- Aid pupils to understand how language works and how language can influence people and events;
- Create awareness of the different contexts in which language is used and develop the ability to select the appropriate language in line with this;
- Ensure that language enriches the experience of every child in Ysgol Aberconwy and improves their ability to contribute to a bilingual society.

In other lessons across the curriculum, every pupil should be given appropriate learning experiences in order to promote their achievement in the following:-

- Listening attentively and critically in different situations, and showing understanding both in terms of oral and active response;
- Speaking clearly, fluently and confidently with different people in different situations and for different purposes;
- Reading a range of material for pleasure, information and understanding;
- Developing an awareness of Wales' literary heritage;
- Developing the use, enjoyment and understanding of media, information technology and drama;
- Writing clearly, effectively and in an interesting manner in order to convey meaning, information, opinion, feeling and imagination;
- Adapting expression for varying purposes and for different readers;
- Writing correctly and sensitively and presenting work in a clear and attractive way.

Provision

Measures to meet Objective 1

The Welsh language is visible and audible as a relevant and natural means of communication throughout the school

- A member of the school's leadership team has responsibility for the development of Welsh and bilingualism.
- A bilingualism coordinator is in place.
- All parental letters, newsletters, and school promotional material are bilingual.
- All whole school internal memos, policies and pro-formas are, when practical, bilingual.
- The website is fully bilingual.
- All pupils study an appropriate Welsh language Course at KS4.
- Good / fluent pupil learners identified by Welsh learning team to encourage all staff to communicate in Welsh in informal situations.
- Staff greet pupils in Welsh and use incidental Welsh in lessons.
- All year 7 form tutors and PSHE teachers are Welsh speakers and deliver these sessions bilingually.
- There is a Welsh element in all assemblies.
- Bilingual signs and posters are displayed prominently around the school, e.g. canteen, main entrance, hall, library etc.
- Display boards are bilingual. Following Conwy policy, and an acknowledgement of their official status, both languages should be given equal status (same font size etc) with the Welsh on the left.
- Visitors to the school greeted in Welsh by office staff.
- Welsh Phrase of the Week shared in the weekly bulletin.
- Registers in all lessons, apart from modern languages, to be called in Welsh.
- Some Welsh phrases to be used in all lessons.
- Gwaith Dosbarth / Gwaith Cartref in Welsh on each piece of work. Titles should be bilingual where possible. Day/Month should be written in Welsh.
- Welsh comment on reports.
- All external communication MUST be bilingual.
- Internal documents shared with whole staff should be bilingual.
- 'Trac yr Wythnos' promotes Welsh music and culture.
- Staff ensure the use of Welsh across the curriculum.
- Enrichment activities and experiences offered in order to develop learners' use and enjoyment of Welsh.
- The school community encourages the use of Welsh outside the classroom.
- Welsh language champions encourage their peers to use more Welsh in and around school.

- The school development plan includes a clear commitment to developing bilingualism.
- All staff demonstrate a clear commitment to the development of the Welsh language and culture.

Measures to meet Objective 2

The Welsh language is evident, dynamic and integrated into the Teaching and Learning at Ysgol Aberconwy in all departments, and provides an awareness of the Welsh dimension in curriculum provision and extra-curricular activities.

- 'Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig' is embedded into schemes of work across the curriculum.
- Welsh / bilingualism criterion when observing colleagues' lessons.
- KS2/3 and KS3/4 Welsh pupil portfolios ensure a clear awareness of pupils' achievements and show clear continuity across the Key Stages.
- Effective use of assessment data to plan the next stages of pupils' linguistic development.
- Pupils to be taught bilingually where possible at KS3.
- The school community understands and promotes the benefits of bilingualism.
- All staff and all departments show a commitment to working towards and achieving the department language awards and in continuous progression through the levels.

Measures to meet Objective 3

Pupils' experiences are enriched by events which are an integral part of school life

- St. David's Day is celebrated during the relevant week by holding a Welsh assembly and activities or competitions focused on Welsh culture.
- AS/A2 Welsh trips to support the study of literary texts.
- Annual visit by various guest speakers.
- Extra-curricular links with the Urdd which promote the Welsh language e.g. Urdd sporting competitions, Urdd Eisteddfod, Gemau gïamocs, visits to Glan Llyn
- Y Caban – space for pupils to socialise using the language at lunchtime through planned activities.
- Development of staff Welsh language skills through various courses including the 'Say something in Welsh' course and celebration of successes with 'Seren Iaith' in the weekly bulletin
- Annual school Eisteddfod in the Spring term.
- Celebration of the Su'mae / Dydd miswig Cymru