

# *Ysgol Gynradd Tairgwaith Primary School*



## *Bilingualism Policy*

*Paratol Pob Plentyn am Dyfodol Gwell*

*Preparing Every Child for a Better Future*

## **Bilingualism Policy**

Welsh is the national language of Wales and it is the responsibility of all teachers to teach Welsh as part of the Curriculum for Wales. It is important that the children of Tairgwaith Primary School are taught Welsh part of the language and communication AOLE and also as part of the LLC skills progression steps. It enriches their awareness and comprehension of their heritage and culture of Wales and develops their personality and ability to contribute to the community, giving them a sense of place and identity.

As well as being taught Welsh as a second language, children will be exposed to other languages as part of the language and communication AOLE progression steps. These additional languages will be chosen at the discretion of the class teacher, depending on the relevance of their class.

There are definite advantages to be gained from bilingualism. It can:

- Widen the concept of the language
- Assist with all language work
- Improve listening skills
- Aid concentration
- Reinforce other curriculum areas

More pragmatically, knowledge of Welsh is an increasing advantage to those seeking employment in Wales. A child who enjoys the opportunity to benefit from the advantages above should experience improved self esteem and confidence and an increased enjoyment of education. In our multicultural school, Welsh could serve as a vehicle which lessens prejudice and enhances tolerance and understanding, as the majority of children start learning Welsh at the same level.

The aims of teaching Welsh in Tairgwaith Primary are:

- To deliver the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales
- To give pupils a knowledge of Welsh and the ability to use it as a language
- To give pupils an awareness of the literary and cultural heritage of the country in which we live
- To develop pupil's knowledge, understanding and skills within an integrated programme of Oracy, Reading and Writing.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **Foundation Phase: Nursery / Reception -**

Pupils will be taught to:

- Listen to familiar voices
- Respond appropriately to commands and simple questions
- Learn some simple Welsh songs and Nursery rhymes
- Play simple playground games
- Use Welsh within the classroom in role play corners, during sand and water play
- To be able to count and recognize shapes in mathematics

### **Years 1 & 2 -**

When speaking pupils will be taught to:

- Listen to familiar and unfamiliar voices
- Respond to what they hear using familiar words, phrases and sentences
- Speak correctly and clearly

When reading pupils will be taught to:

- Listen to a simple story being read and follow the text
- Read aloud their own work and other appropriate printed resources
- Recognise simple words and phrases
- Being to read very simple texts independently

When writing pupils will be taught to:

- Communicate by writing words, very simple phrases and sentences to express personal and factual information
- Begin to spell familiar words correctly and be aware of the need for basic punctuation

### **Key Stage 2:**

When speaking pupils will be taught to:

- Build on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in Foundation Phase
- Listen and respond appropriately in a variety of circumstances
- Use an increasing range of words, phrases, sentences and questions when speaking
- Speak correctly and be more willing to contribute

When reading pupils will be given opportunities to:

- Listen to their teacher reading a variety of suitable texts
- Extend their ability to read aloud their own work and respond to other printed texts
- To choose Welsh books from the school 'Wales' display reading box
- Develop as independent readers

When writing pupils will be given opportunities to:

- Present and arrange information effectively in writing in response to a range of stimuli
- Write a short passage based on personal experience and by the end of Key Stage 2 to produce a variety of writing such as letters and postcards
- Plan and improve their work
- Express an opinion and offer a brief explanation.
- Write linked sentences, showing a grasp of sequences and organization
- Spell words that occur frequently correctly and to be able to use a Welsh dictionary to find unfamiliar words
- Use correct punctuation

### **Use of Incidental Welsh**

Both the staff and children will develop a positive attitude to the development and use of incidental Welsh. It should be used at appropriate times of the day, in as many aspects of the school day as possible in real life situations. Welsh will also be used by staff in whole school assemblies and class assemblies, with one planned Welsh assembly per week. The speaking of Welsh will be monitored by all school staff and the 'Cops Cymreig' both in and out of the classroom, and this will be acknowledged every week with a certificate and points towards the school achievement structure.

### **Staff Resources**

- There are several fluent Welsh speaking members of staff
- Non-Welsh speaking teachers are supported by the Lead Professional for Bilingualism
- To ensure that all staff including Teaching Assistants and Lunchtime Supervisors are offered training led by the Welsh Advisory team
- To effectively deploy the services of Mrs. Alison Streefland, the school's Athrawes Fro and her team of supporting officers

## **Teaching Resources**

Each year group follow a structured scheme of work ( N/R: Tedi Twt / YRS 1&2: Flic a Flac / YRS 3&4: Pod Antur 1 / YRS 5&6: Pod Antur 2 ) which ensures that at least one topic is taught each half term(This is linked to the English text type being taught wherever possible) . Each class follows an outline of the vocabulary and sentence patterns to be introduced, which will be revisited exclusively or within a relevant different topic at other times in the child's school life. This will ensure that vocabulary and sentence patterns are revised and consolidated and there is a progression of language skills being taught.

The Lead Professional for Bilingualism will ensure that the subject will be adequately resourced. Needs will be identified and new resources such as books, games, DVD's and whiteboard resources will be purchased according to funding.

## **The Role of the Lead Professional for Bilingualism**

The responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that plans are in place and are used appropriately and effectively
- Organizing and updating resources
- Liaising with and supporting staff and identifying INSET needs
- Disseminating information through INSET & ADDs
- Liaising with the Athrawes Fro on a regular basis
- Reporting regularly to the Head teacher

## **Time and Methodology**

- To ensure that adequate time is allocated for regular teaching of incidental Welsh through the school week. This will be done by incorporating it into Registration time, PE or Dance lessons, in addition to specific times to teach the programmes of study in Oracy, Reading and Writing.
- In Foundation Phase the emphasis is mainly on Oracy. In Key Stage 2, the balance will be mixture of the three attainment targets, but lessons will be heavily weighted towards Oracy. As the children progress throughout the school there will be an increasing emphasis on reading and writing, especially in the Upper and Lower Juniors. The children will be taught to use language in an effective, communicative form.
- A range of teaching strategies will be used such as games, appropriate songs, videos sessions, DVDs and film clips.
- The teaching of Welsh should be included as balance of whole class, group and pair activities as children need to practice the language in small groups as well as in whole class situations.

## **Equal Opportunities**

- To ensure that work is planned to appeal to and to accommodate all levels of ability so that children achieve their full potential
- To ensure that all children have access to the full curriculum, whatever their race, academic ability or gender

## **Assessment and Recording**

- During oral sessions the teacher will listen carefully to the children working in pairs or groups and will record examples of good practice by means of evaluation
- There will also be opportunities to listen to each child read their own work
- The child's writing can be assessed from their completed piece of work
- Children with special educational needs will have access to the language and suitably differentiated activities will be offered
- Planning objectives & assessments will be taken from & recorded through the progression step targets
- Similarly, reports of children's progress and achievements in Welsh are written for parents on an annual basis

## **Key Skills**

- To develop Key Skills in accordance with the Curriculum for Wales
- To develop Literacy & Numeracy Skills in accordance with the LLC skills document
- Effective use of ICT skills to obtain, prepare, process and present information in order to support and enhance the teaching of Welsh as a second language

## **Parental Support/Links with the Community**

- The school endeavors to gain parental support for teaching of the language
- Parents can access the language patterns being learnt by their child through our website / newsletters

## **Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig**

The development of a Welsh ethos in the school is necessary if pupils are to be made aware of Wales as having its own language and culture. This should be accomplished by promoting Welsh as a second functional language through use of bilingual signs and greetings. Children's work will be displayed and valued. Children will be given the opportunity to study books about Wales, read stories, legends and poems written by Welsh authors. Similarly they will learn about famous Welsh people who are positive ambassadors of their country. The weekly 'Welsh' assembly and the 'Clwb Cops Cymreig' will become an integral part of school life. The St David's Day dazzle day is an annual event which will encompass many strands of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

The school will continue to develop the Welsh language and culture by following Y Siarter Iaith targets, which is monitored by the Welsh coordinator and delivered by the Cops Cymreig as well as all other staff.