



Language Policy

Dyddiad Cymeradwyo a Dyddiad Adolygu
Date Approved and Review Date

Gweler Cynllun Adolygu Polisiau
See Policy Review Timetable

The School's Vision in a National Context

The school's vision is to ensure that every pupil develops to be proficiently bilingual, in order to enable them to take a full role in the bilingual society of which they are members. From the Welsh context, emphasis is on ensuring language continuity for every pupil from Primary to Secondary and on giving incomers an opportunity to nurture the basic skills of bilingualism.

In order to support this vision and in line with Conwy County Borough Council's strategy 2017-21; and The Welsh Government's plan **Welsh in Education 2017-21**, as a school we aim to promote the Welsh language and to make it an integral part of school life.

"Conwy County Education Service sets the ambitious aim to ensure that all pupils in the county own fluent linguistic skills and are confident in both Welsh and English, so as to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are part. We promote pride in the languages, heritage and culture of Conwy County and Wales" (Conwy Education Welsh Strategic Plan). *

The Government has acknowledged the substantial challenges that face the traditional Welsh areas, like Conwy in **Welsh in Education 2017-21** and they outline their strategy to act upon this. It is therefore our responsibility as an educational institution to react to these challenges and to protect the Welsh Language.

In respect of the above documents there is a continuous emphasis on developing the Welsh Language within Estyn's Inspection Framework (September 2017), Professional Standards 2018 and Welsh in the Workplace (Welsh Government/GWE). Inspectors shall consider:

- the standard of Welsh as a subject, and cross-curricular;
- the quality of the Welsh provision, the Welsh medium and the Welsh dimension from the point of view of formal and informal learning experiences, the learning and learning environment; and
- the quality of the school leadership from the point of view of planning and improving the quality of the provision, working in partnership and managing resources in order to ensure the best possible standards in Welsh.

This policy outlines the School's teaching and learning medium, from the point of view of English and Welsh and it is the teaching staff's responsibility to implement this policy.

The School's Background

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy is a bilingual comprehensive school and is located in the rural town of Llanrwst. The area is considered as natural Welsh but during recent years the influx of non-Welsh speakers has left its mark on the area and in respect of this the linguistic situation is a complex one.

A cross-section of pupils are accepted to the school annually.

- (a) Pupils from Welsh first language homes.
- (b) Pupils from English first language homes.
- (c) Pupils from homes where both languages are spoken.
- (d) Pupils from homes where Welsh/English and another language/languages are spoken.

By now a number of pupils that transfer from the Primary have received their education through the medium of Welsh. All schools transferring to Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy are category A schools except for one school, Ysgol Glan Conwy (25%) so a natural progression takes place when they are transferred from KS2 to KS3 in most cases. There are also a very small amount of latecomers that arrive during the transition period and during KS3

and KS4. There isn't an immersion arrangement for them. So the school's present situation is a strong one considering the language patterns of the past and the local and international vision for the future.

General Statement

Welsh is a core subject for everyone in the school and it is taught up to GCSE standard and A level as a first language and up to GCSE standard as a second language. We aim to provide effective bilingual education, so that the experiences offered through the medium of Welsh and English, rather than through one language alone will broaden the child's outlook, so he/she will have more advantage than a child taught through the medium of a single language. We aim to ensure that every pupil, across all subjects, whatever his/her linguistic background or ability shall develop to be a pupil capable of expressing himself/herself bilingually and ready for the workforce in the future.

The School Ethos

We believe it our duty as a school to safeguard the Welsh ethos which is inherent to this area and to purposely promote the Welsh dimension of the Curriculum. In order to promote the Welsh tradition and heritage and to create a Welsh ethos the Welsh Language is given a prime position visually and aurally around the school.

The language is given pride of place:

1. In all Curricular and social aspects of the school.
2. In the morning services and in the tutorial periods where we aim to have a sensitive balance between both languages.
3. Visually around the school such as official bilingual sign and bilingual signs on notice boards. We use television screens to present messages to pupils, staff and visitors in both languages.
4. Every effort is made to use Welsh as an informal communication medium around the school. All correspondence with parents is bilingual.
5. The use of Welsh is assured with the public and visitors to school, on the telephone and at reception.
6. Welsh is used in formal evenings and in announcements and correspondence with parents where that is practically possible.
7. Awareness of Welsh heritage and culture is promoted by offering activities in school and beyond, such as activities and skills week to promote the use of Welsh socially which ensures the importance of the status of the language.

Curricular Aspects

Welsh and English as subjects

Every pupil is expected to study Welsh and English up to the end of year 11 and to sit the relevant examinations in both subjects at the end of the courses. The pupils having had primary education through the medium of Welsh will follow the first language track and able pupils can transfer within KS4. Welsh second language pupils and late-comers will sit second language examinations. Every pupil that transfers from Primary to Secondary therefore will follow the appropriate language program.

Language Medium KS3

Natural linguistic continuity is ensured from KS2, in addition to presenting elements in both languages for every pupil in every subject. We aim for Welsh to be the main teaching medium in KS3, but pupils' proficiency in both languages is safeguarded and respective place is given to English in a series of work programs in every subject. The school also recognises the importance of translanguaging and pupils' ability to move from one

language to another. Mathematics is taught bilingually from Year 7 and Science from Year 9. Support for pupils and parents with homework can be provided bilingually.

Language Medium – KS4

In years 10 and 11 all subjects are offered in both languages. Pupils are advised to continue learning through the language they were taught in KS3. Access to copies of papers in both languages is possible through registration for examinations through the medium of Welsh.

Language Medium – Year 12/13

The aim is to ensure continuity to previous linguistic balance and the teaching medium will reflect the previous teaching as far as resources permits in the subjects and the most suitable groups. The school works closely in partnership with Ysgol y Creuddyn and LINC Conwy in order to expand pupil's choice and to try to protect minority subjects through the medium of Welsh/Bilingual.

Provision for ALN pupils

The school's ALN link officer will be in contact with the departments and will inspect the linguistic provision for pupils and will offer class support in lessons.

Primary Secondary Links

The school is in good partnership with the Officers of Welsh in Education Team that are employed by the county.

Conwy Welsh Education Plan

The school is being represented on the sub-panel of the strategy. The school is working with the extended community through Conwy Language Forum (Menter Iaith, The Urdd, PCAI Programme, Young Farmers). In addition to this, partnerships are held with other organizations/agencies e.g. Conwy Libraries.

Primary Secondary

The school works closely with the primary schools within the catchment area in order to develop and promote Welsh and English.

Curriculum for Wales

The school is an active part of the developments of the Area of Learning and Experience Languages, Literacy and Communication a Curriculum for Wales by representing a Bilingual Rural School.

Staffing and Recruiting

- The school makes very effort to appoint staffs that are confident in both languages.

*Most recent copy needed to depend upon it.