

Caldicot School
Ysgol Cil-y-Coed



Caldicot School

Welsh Language Policy

Ratified by the Governing Body on 10th July 2018

CALDICOT SCHOOL – WELSH LANGUAGE POLICY

1. Opening Statement

Caldicot School is committed to:

- 1.1 the vision outlined by the Welsh Government in 'Our National Mission' regarding the development of: *'a transformational approach to the learning, teaching and assessment of the Welsh language with the aim of ensuring all learners will be able to use the Welsh language when they leave school'*;
- 1.2 the overarching values and dispositions relating to Welsh language and culture within the new professional standards for teaching and leadership, where: *'the teacher consistently emphasises the central importance of the promotion of Welsh culture and language. Learners will be supported in gaining skills across all areas of learning, and every opportunity will be taken to extend learners' skills and competence'*;
- 1.3 the national (Welsh in Education Plan 2017-21) and regional (A regional strategy for the development of Welsh language skills and a Welsh-medium workforce in South East Wales, March 2018) strategies as we move towards the teaching of Welsh through the four purposes along a single-language continuum;
- 1.4 the vision outlined in *Successful Futures*, as we work towards delivering the 4 Curriculum Purposes through the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience embedded within the three cross-curriculum skills of literacy, numeracy and digital competency. As noted in *Successful Futures*, the Languages, literacy and communication Area of Learning and Experience can contribute to all four purposes of the curriculum, e.g.:
 - (ambitious, capable learners) having a high level of competence in literacy in English and Welsh; using and understanding increasingly abstract language to explore and develop ideas; learning to use additional languages
 - (enterprising, creative contributors) using oral and written language skills in different settings with an appropriate sense of audience and using different media; communicating effectively in the Welsh language in different settings, including for work settings
 - (ethical, informed citizens) sensitively questioning and critically appraising different points of view; detecting bias in the use of language
 - (healthy, confident individuals) communicating their thoughts, views and feelings sensitively and participating confidently in different social contexts.

2. Aims

We aim to:

1. maintain and raise standards in Welsh;
2. ensure that all Welsh teachers have the necessary Welsh language skills and pedagogical approaches to teach the Welsh language;
3. develop the informal use of Welsh across the school;
4. support our staff in moving towards the new professional standards;

5. develop a Welsh literacy strategy, outlining an unified approach to the teaching of speaking and listening, reading and writing in line with the principles of curriculum development as set out in Successful Futures;
6. provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh across the curriculum where appropriate;
7. ensure progression in standards and use of incidental Welsh as pupils move from KS2 to KS3.

3. **Outcomes**

The school is committed to achieving the following outcomes from this policy:

1. leadership on a whole school level;
2. pupils understanding the relevance of the Welsh language to everyday life;
3. support for school staff to develop Welsh language skills;
4. use of Welsh and Welsh dimension experiences across the curriculum;
5. KS2-3 progression;
6. pupils using Welsh outside the classroom;
7. partnership with the wider school community to support pupils' use of Welsh outside school.

4. **Roles and responsibilities**

4.1 **The Governing Body and the Headteacher will ensure that:**

- a clear and strategic rationale for the curriculum has been established to improve pupils' Welsh language skills;
- appropriate opportunities are purposefully planned to provide for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills in formal and informal situations;
- Welsh is allocated sufficient time to deliver statutory requirements and the demands of the National Curriculum programmes of study;
- suitably qualified staff are recruited to teach Welsh;
- pupils have full access to the KS4 programmes of study and that all pupils gain an external qualification in Welsh at KS4;
- Welsh is available to Sixth Form students;
- the promotion of Welsh culture and language is consistently emphasised within the ethos of the school and as they develop the school as a learning organisation;

- the quality of the school's provision for the development of pupils' Welsh language skills in formal teaching activities and in informal situations is evaluated.

4.2 The Senior Management Group will:

- promote Welsh culture and language consistently within the ethos of the school;
- identify whole school training needs for all staff, including non-teaching staff in the School Improvement Plan;
- monitor and promote progress in line with targets as set out in Welsh language Thematic Improvement Plan.

4.3 Subject Leaders will:

- be knowledgeable of new initiatives / changes and support offered;
- identify subject specific training needs through lesson observations;
- encourage members of the curriculum area to attend training based on identified needs;
- ensure Schemes of Work promote Cwricwlwm Cymreig, Welsh culture and language.

4.4 Individual staff will:

- be required to make a '*personal commitment to incremental development of skills in the use of the Welsh language*';
- take advantage of professional development as they aim to '*actively seek opportunities to apply and extend their understanding and skills in the use of the Welsh language*';
- facilitate the development of pupils' Welsh language skills across the curriculum and around the school;
- promote the advantages of learning Welsh and becoming bilingual.

4.5 The Welsh department will:

- work with feeder primary schools in order to work towards progression in standards and use of incidental Welsh;
- keep abreast of current and emerging pedagogical approaches to the teaching of Welsh language skills influenced by national and international research on the teaching of languages;
- support the building of capacity for the teaching of Welsh within the school;
- deliver language training for teachers and teaching assistants to improve and develop confidence in their use of Welsh;

- work with Yr Urdd and Menter Iaith to promote the use of Welsh beyond the classroom and to raise awareness of Welsh heritage and culture;
- work with the WJEC to support the implementation of new specifications;
- provide support for the assessment, standardisation and moderation of Welsh;
- develop networks and school-to-school partnerships in order to build capacity within a self-improving system
- work with the EAS to facilitate and support a regional approach to the development and delivery of their Welsh in Education strategic plans.

5. At Risk Procedures

In planning for the Welsh language we:

- 5.1 will reinforce that Caldicot School is an English medium school;
- 5.2 encourage pupils from Welsh medium sector to continue in the Welsh medium sector;
- 5.3 uphold WJEC regulations regarding pupils who have studied Welsh first language programmes of study transferring to Welsh second language GCSE and / or AS/A2 programmes of study/qualifications;
- 5.4 are not in a position or provide a Welsh first language pathway – or alternative arrangements – for pupils who transfer from Welsh medium education to Caldicot School, but will take into account and support any EAL needs.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

- 6.1 The Director of Teaching and Learning will monitor and evaluate the policy annually, and make any further recommendations to the Governing Body.
- 6.2 The school will work closely with the EAS, WG and WJEC to ensure that statutory requirements are met.
- 6.3 The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher and staff, will regularly review this policy and associated procedures in order to ensure its continuing effectiveness.