

YSGOL UWCHRADD ABERHONDDU BRECON HIGH SCHOOL



Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig Welsh/Bilingualism Policy

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Brecon High School



Welsh / Bilingualism / Y Cwricwlwm Cymreig Policy

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 Uwchradd Aberhonddu 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.

Purpose

The bilingual policy at Ysgol Uwchradd Aberhonddu 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.

Aims

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 Uwchradd Aberhonddu in all departments and provides an awareness of the Welsh dimension in curriculum provision.
3. Pupils' experiences are enriched by events which are an integral part of school life to enable pupils to develop a sense of belonging to our local community and country; allow pupils to understand and celebrate the distinctive quality of living and learning in Wales and give pupils an awareness of contemporary issues as they affect Wales.

Practice

Both English and Welsh are the main teaching medium for Ysgol Uwchradd Aberhonddu, with Welsh taught as a second language across all ages and ability ranges in the English stream. Welsh stream students access a variety of lessons through the medium of Welsh, such as Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies and International Languages. 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 Uwchradd Aberhonddu:

- 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

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

- Learn about the culture and heritage of Wales
- Become involved in local community projects
- Increase their fluency and use of Welsh in school and in the community
- Be encouraged to explore creative and expressive arts in Wales
- Learn about citizenship and issues relating to living in Wales
- Participate in celebrations of our cultural heritage
- Have opportunities to visit areas in Wales for curriculum enrichment
- Take part in assemblies that contain a bilingual dimension

Objectives to meet Aim 1

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

- To hear incidental use of the Welsh language by all staff and students alike e.g. Ga i fynd i'r tŷ bach os gwelwch yn dda? Ga i bensil os gwelwch yn dda?
- See the use of bilingual signs and notices around the school
- Pupils understand and respond to basic Welsh questions and commands.

Objectives to meet Aim 2

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

- Curriculum for Wales schemes of learning celebrate Cymreictod and our local area – Specifically the theme 'Cynefin' in year 7.
- Children and young people have the opportunity to discuss the Welsh language and its relevance to everyday life.
- Pupils are taught the benefits of learning Welsh.
- Pupils feel pride by connecting the language, culture and Welsh traditions with positive and affirmative experiences.

Objectives to meet Aim 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.
- Welsh trips to support the study of literary texts.
- Annual visits by various guest speakers.
- Extra-curricular links with the Urdd which promote the Welsh language e.g. Urdd sporting competitions, Urdd Eisteddfod, Visits to Glan Llyn a Llangrannog
- Annual school Eisteddfod in the Spring term.
- Celebration of Diwrnod Shwmae, Su'mae / Dydd miswig Cymru
- Link governor appointed for Cymreictod.

Criw Cymraeg & Siarter Iaith

The Criw Cymraeg are responsible for developing Cymreictod across the school and are working towards achieving the Bronze award.

Our aim is to embed positive practices and attitudes towards the language through purposeful planning within schools and to promote informal use of it among children and young people inside and outside the school, bringing other partners together to web To. Facilitating the use of Welsh – across the curriculum and in wider activities – with linguistic progression planned throughout all phases of education, will offer all children and young people the opportunity to become fully bilingual.