Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School



WELSH POLICY

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CoG:

INTRODUCTION

English is the main language of communication, teaching, learning and assessment at Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School / Ysgol Gynradd Blaenafon Treftadaeth.

However, the school is committed, as is the Torfaen's Welsh Education Scheme, to promoting the aims and aspirations of the Welsh Assembly Government by:

- Recognising the key contribution that our school makes to achieve the goal of *"creating a truly bilingual Wales"* (School Effectiveness Framework 2008).
- Making sure "*the ethos of the school* reflects *the values inherent in Wales, including the importance of the Welsh Language within the context of a bilingual country with its unique culture and traditions"* (School Effectiveness Framework 2008).
- Treating "*the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality"* (School Effectiveness Framework 2008).
- Ensuring "t*hat all learners develop their Welsh language skills to their full potential and encourage sound linguistic progression"* (Welsh–medium Education strategy 2010) from Foundation phase to Key Stage 2 and to KS3.
- "Raising *standards in the teaching and learning of Welsh Second language"* (Welsh–medium Education strategy 2010).

We will seek to inform all stakeholders in our school of the benefits of the Welsh language and will provide appropriate opportunities for all pupils to achieve their full potential in relation to their Welsh language skills.

Ysgol Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School is situated in a predominately English speaking area and all the pupils come from English speaking homes. In planning for the Welsh language we will consider all pupils' Welsh second language starting points and will monitor progress throughout the Key Stages.

All of the teaching staff is non Welsh speaking (First Language). The school's policy is to ensure that all staff have sufficient training to be able to deliver Welsh second language both in and beyond the classroom. Both English and Welsh will be functional languages in the school.

We will promote Oracy, Reading and Writing skills in both English and Welsh second language in informal and structured situations. We will endeavour to use similar approaches in the development of these skills in English and transfer appropriate strategies to the teaching and learning opportunities provided in Welsh. We therefore aim to:

- Self-evaluate and set targets for improvement in Welsh Second Language.
- Ensure that all pupils receive regular high quality structured Welsh Second Language teaching.
- Provide appropriate time allocation for developing Oracy, Reading and Writing skills for all pupils in order to fulfil the demands of the Programmes of Study of the National Curriculum. Estyn recommends 90 minutes a week (discrete teaching and opportunities beyond the Welsh lesson –not including time spent on Welsh during registration).

- Plan challenging activities for all pupils to achieve good standards and make good progress in their knowledge, understanding and skills in Welsh Second Language.
- Give all pupils, irrespective of ability, equal opportunity to learn Welsh

- Foster positive attitudes in all stakeholders towards the Welsh Language and make them aware of the advantages of learning Welsh and becoming increasingly bilingual.
- Motivate and secure the active engagement of pupils in Welsh Second Language through using a range of suitable teaching and training methods and resources.
- Ensure that Welsh is given an audible place in all areas of school life, eg on the playground, classroom routines, school assemblies, concerts, outdoor activities and school visits.
- Give Welsh a visual place in and around the school, eg signage, displays, newsletters and websites.
- Ensure pupils in the Foundation Phase hear and use Welsh in all areas of learning.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in other subject areas.
- Give pupils opportunities to use familiar language in a range of new situations, to become active, as well as passive, users of Welsh.
- Provide pupils with opportunities to use Welsh naturally, spontaneously and with confidence in all aspects of school life, eg playground games, the Criw.
- Ensure that the Key Skills and Wider Key Skills are integral to the development of Welsh second language.
- Provide opportunities to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in the Foundation Phase.
- Participate in the Welsh Second Language transition projects between and across phases to ensure continuity and progression.
- Make rigorous use of assessment for learning by enabling pupils to evaluate their own work, the work of others and set targets for improvement to meet their individual overall needs.
- Meet regularly as a cluster to standardise and moderate pupils' work in order to have a common understanding of standards.
- Carry out continuous teacher assessment/report pupil levels to parents at the end of Key Stage 2.
- Set pupil targets and review annually.
- Provide sufficient and appropriate teaching and learning resources to enhance standards, including suitably trained staff, reading materials and materials to promote ICT in Welsh Second Language.
- Share good practice within and outside the school to raise standards.
- Identify training needs and work in partnership with the Welsh Advisory Service to improve linguistic skills and raise standards of teaching and learning.