Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School



WELSH LANGUAGE & CULTURE POLICY

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Welsh in Education
"Our national mission of education reform seeks to raise standards, reduce the attainment gap and deliver an education system that enjoys public confidence and is a source of national pride.
The welsh language is integral to those reforms, *as it is to the Government-wide objectives of building resilient communities, culture and language, and promoting and protecting Wales' place in the world."*
Kirsty Williams, Education Minister for Wales – December 2017

*"**Welsh Language** education changes lives and creates opportunities. It's essential for our economy, and it can help create a fairer and more equal society. We are rolling out our new curriculum in schools and working towards our goal of a million Welsh speakers by 2050."*
Jeremy Miles, Education Minister for Wales – September 2021

At Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School (BHVC) we share the vision
CARIAD CYMRU - LOVE WALES

Our aims:

- Provide Effective Leadership: Promoting the language and culture of Wales.
- Design a curriculum that is relevant to our learners and visible within Language, Literacy and Communication and across all areas of learning.
- Implement the National Framework: Welsh Language Charter/Siarter Iaith, by following the Silver/Arian Cymraeg Campus. (Bronze award achieved in 2018).

We will achieve our aims using Curriculum for Wales and the Welsh National Framework guidance.

Welsh in the Professional Standards

- Leaders at BHVC will set an example for learners, colleagues and the community through a positive commitment to ***enjoy learning welsh.***
- Leaders and staff at BHVC will commit to developing personal skills, identify opportunities to apply understanding and skills in welsh.
- Teachers and support staff at BHVC will consistently emphasise 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.

Curriculum for Wales: Welsh within LLC and across the curriculum

'All learners should have appropriate pathways for learning Welsh and English to enable them to develop the confidence to use both languages in everyday life. Opportunities to use Welsh within and beyond the classroom support learners to use Welsh confidently and appreciate its usefulness to communication in a bilingual Wales.'

The Four Purposes:

Ambitious, capable learners who: can communicate effectively in different forms and settings, using both Welsh and English.

Ethical, informed citizens who: are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past and are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.

Welsh National Framework: All schools, regardless of their linguistic nature, will work within the same framework to achieve the aim of ensuring that learners:

- are confident in using their Welsh language skills.
- foster positive attitudes towards the language.
- increase the use of the language inside and outside the school.

Ysgol Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School is situated in a predominately English-speaking area and all the pupils come from English speaking homes. The learners' Welsh language experiences, knowledge and skills will be developed and planned for using the **National Framework and Curriculum for Wales; Statements of what matters in Languages, Literacy and Communication (LLC), the Descriptions of Learning will be used to reflect the pace and depth of support for our learners in developing their Welsh language skills.**

We will promote Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing skills in both English and Welsh language in informal and formal situations, however we will place a greater focus on understanding and using Welsh as a means of oral communication.

We therefore aim to:

- Foster positive attitudes to enjoy learning the Welsh Language across the school community.
- Ensure learners and their families understand the advantages of learning Welsh and becoming increasingly bilingual.
- Give the Welsh ethos an audible place in all areas of school life, eg on the playground, classroom, worship, school assemblies, concerts, outdoor activities, family/community events and school visits.
- Establish a visual Welsh ethos in and around the school, eg pupil community projects, rewards, signage, displays, newsletters and websites.
- Organise enrichment activities; Eisteddfod, Urdd Activities, Welsh trips e.g Llangranog, Welsh historical visits, Important calendar events e.g St David's Day.
- Cwricwlwm Cymreig and the Welsh Dimension – use an integrated approach to the Learning and Teaching of Welsh language and culture across all areas of learning.
- Ensure all learners are offered opportunities to hear and use Welsh every day.
- 'Criw Cymraeg' to promote the use of Welsh outside the classroom and in the community.
- Use Cross-curricular skills such as Digital Competence Skills to enhance the learning and enjoyment of Welsh.
- Participate in the Welsh Language transition projects between and across phases to ensure continuity and progression.
- 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.
- Follow the Welsh marking policy.
- 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.
- Share good practice within and outside the school to raise standards.
- Identify training needs and work in partnership with the EAS Language, Literacy, and Communication-Cymraeg Advisory Team to improve linguistic skills and raise standards of teaching and learning.
- Self-evaluate and set targets for improvement in Welsh Language and culture.