

**Outcomes
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CHESTNUT HILL
SCHOOL

Welsh Language Policy

**Policy Folder:
Children's
Education**

CONTENTS	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 AIMS OF THE POLICY	2
3.0 KEY PRINCIPLES.....	2

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy is a statement of the aims and objectives and teaching strategies for Welsh at Chestnut Hill School. It should be read in conjunction with: -

1. Vision and Aims of the school;
2. Curriculum policy;
3. Marking and Feedback policy;
4. Assessment, Recording and Reporting policy.

Curriculum: Chestnut Hill School is a predominantly English medium school. All learners experience the Areas of Learning predominantly through the medium of English.

Language of the school: English is the language of the day to day business of the school; Welsh is used with the aim of raising learners' awareness of the Welsh language, where appropriate. The school communicates with parents through English. A high percentage of learners are from English authorities. However, the school recognizes that this can change over time, and therefore adopts a flexible and dynamic approach to the use of incidental Welsh within the school.

2.0 AIMS OF THE POLICY

To promote a knowledge of Welsh language and culture, engagement with the local village community and access to the great Welsh outdoors, thus enriching the provision at Chestnut Hill School, adding significant value to our young people's learning and achievement, and contributing to improvements in their personal development, motivation, well-being and behaviour. Chestnut Hill School recognizes that for the majority of our students, communication is an identified key area of need.

Therefore the introduction of any additional language must be considered within the context of the learning needs and developmental needs of each individual student.

1. To take into account the importance of the use of the Welsh language in the curriculum;
2. To ensure that all learners who have the ability, are able to communicate, respond to and use key words in the Welsh language;
3. To create and sustain a Welsh ethos, ensuring learners are aware of their being in Wales and that Wales has its own language and unique cultural heritage; having their attention drawn to national and cultural events and participating in activities within the local community; ensuring that all stakeholders and employees appreciate that the school is in Wales;
4. To raise the profile of Welsh as the living, working language of Wales by, for example, using and responding to Welsh in greetings and pleasantries, promoting exposure to Welsh songs/rhymes; having Welsh names for class groups.
5. To use Welsh language books and symbols where appropriate, supporting learners to develop knowledge of key Welsh words.

3.0 KEY PRINCIPLES

Time Allocation:

The Welsh language is delivered informally in every case and not as a discrete subject, except for such times as learners having the capacity to communicate verbally and fluently in Welsh are admitted to Chestnut Hill School (and are able to engage in a formal curriculum). Able and gifted learners will be provided with opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of Welsh in terms of depth and breadth where appropriate.

Content:

A core Welsh vocabulary has been identified, which includes:

- A range of greetings in Welsh, such as *bore da, prynhawn da, helo*;
- The Welsh names for the days of the week and months of the year;
- Some basic classroom language including names of classroom items and instructions and comments, e.g. *eistedda, plis, sori, da iawn, bendigedig* etc.

Further prominence of the language is given through:

- Welsh place names being reflected in names of classrooms;
- Welsh words and phrases being reflected on classroom boards and through comments made through marking.
- Celebrations of Welsh culture, including St David's Day and Saint Dwynwen's day.
- Welsh language books, where appropriate, for some areas of the curriculum.

The Learning Environment:

The learning environment extends beyond the immediate classroom, with use being made of the local area and the wider Welsh countryside. Outdoor education and community participation activities will further provide opportunities to experience and engage with the Welsh language, local community and Welsh culture.

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